

Hist. 206-301
Spring 2010
Wed., 2-5 p.m.
DRL 2N36

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Imperial Asia

This research seminar will examine the modern history of the Asia/Pacific region from the perspective of one of its most salient features: empire. If imperial conquest shaped the contours of modern Africa, it was no less significant in nineteenth and twentieth century Asia. As in Africa, conquest in Asia/the Pacific was a critical means by which nations came to define their global status. And the legacy of colonialism was central to the disastrous series of wars that plagued twentieth century Asia. We will highlight the three empires in modern Asia/the Pacific with the most profound long-term effects—French Indochina, the Philippines under American rule and the Japanese empire—to shed light upon twentieth century Asia and the nature of modern empire building. Special attention will be paid to comparative themes (conquest, governance, local identity, etc.) and cross-border (“transnational”) linkages.

Objectives

This course is divided into three chronologically distinct parts. Part I highlights the early years of colonial rule in Asia/the Pacific from the 19th through early 20th centuries. Part II covers the 20th century until the fall of the Japanese empire. Part III focuses on the legacy of empire after 1945.

We are concerned in this course with three types of historical inquiry: history, historiography and primary source research. Readings in each of the three chronological periods are designed to make you think about these three approaches to history. As you engage each period, please try to:

- 1) obtain a general historical narrative (outline) of the era (history)
- 2) understand different ways in which historians treat the history of empire in Asia (historiography)
- 3) judge ways in which voices of contemporaries (primary sources) confirm or challenge narratives of empire written by scholars (secondary sources)

Texts

Please purchase at the Pennsylvania Book Center, 130 S. 34th Street (215-222-7600):

Kien Nguyen, *The Unwanted: A Memoir of Childhood* (2002)

H. L. Wesseling, *The European Colonial Empires* (2004)

Duong Van Mai Elliott, *The Sacred Willow: Four Generations of Life in a Vietnamese Family* (1999)

Vincente L. Rafael, *White Love and Other Events in Filipino History* (2000)

Leo T. S. Ching, *Becoming Japanese: Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation* (2001)

A good portion of our readings are in article form, accessible on the course website.

Requirements

There are two components of your grade, which break down as follows.

	<u>Points</u>	<u>% grade</u>
1) Class attendance and participation: (5 pts X 10; 1 discussion = 20; 1 news article 10)	80 pts	40
2) Papers		
a) One 6-8-page historiographical paper	40 pts	20
b) one 15-page research paper (blurb 5; historio 10; outline 10, present 15; paper 40)	80 pts	40

Course itineraryWeek I

1/13 Intro

Part I: Early Empire in AsiaWeek II1/20 Viewing Asia from 21st Century U.S.*Kien Nguyen, *The Unwanted*Week III

1/27 Imperial Overview

Wesseling, *The European Colonial Empires*, chps. 1-4 (pp. 1-146)Week IV

2/3 French Colonization of Vietnam

Wesseling, *The European Colonial Empires*, pp. 191-220*Elliott, *The Sacred Willow*, chps. 1-5 (pp. 1-102)Week V

2/10 Spanish and US Empire in the Philippines

Wesseling, *The European Colonial Empires*, pp. 220-4Rafael, *White Love*, chps. 1-3 (pp. 1-102)2/12 **Research Paper blurb due**

Week VI

2/17 Japanese Empire

Wesseling, *The European Colonial Empires*, pp. 224-7

Peattie, "Japanese Attitudes Toward Colonialism," pp. 80-127

Ching, *Becoming Japanese*, Intro, chps. 1-2 (pp. 1-88)2/19 **Paper #1 due****Part II: Living with the Japanese Empire**Week VII

2/24 Philippines

Theodore Friend, *Blue-Eyed Enemy*, chps. 6-8 (pp. 121-184)Rafael, *White Love*, chp. 4 (pp. 103-121)Week VIII

3/3 Vietnam

Kimloan Hill, "Strangers in a Foreign Land," pp. 256-89

*Elliott, *The Sacred Willow*, chps. 6-10 (pp. 103-242)3/5 **Research Paper intro (including historiography) due**Week IX3/10 **Spring Break**

Week X

3/17 Taiwan, Korea

Ching, *Becoming Japanese*, chps. 3-5 (pp. 89-210)*Sunny Che, *Forever Alien: A Korean Memoir, 1930-1951*, pp. 3-37Week XI

3/24 Transnational ties in Imperial Asia

Richard Jose, "Test of Wills: Diplomacy between Japan and the Laurel Govt.," pp. 185-222

Tran My-Van, "The Japanese occupation and independence for Vietnam," pp. 159-77

*Miyazaki Torazo, "Our Activities in the Troubled World of Southeast Asia" (1903), pp. 173-85

*Manuel Luis Quezon, *The Good Fight* (1946), chps. 3, 10 (pp. 42-59; 174-80)

*Phan Boi Chau, "Prison Notes" (1914), pp. 3-8; 21-4; 28-33; 36-9

3/26 **Research Paper outline due****Part III: Legacy of Empire in Asia**Week XII

3/31 Philippines

"Ken'ichi Goto, "Decolonization and the Formation of an Asia-Pacific Regional System in Southeast Asia," pp. 245-53

Rafael, *White Love*, chps. 5-8 (pp. 122-227)

*Vicente Rivera, Jr., et al., short stories

Week XIII4/7 **Presentation of papers**Week XIV

4/14 Vietnam

*Elliott, *The Sacred Willow*, chps. 11-epilogue (pp. 243-474)Week XV

4/21 Japanese empire

Kobayashi Hideo, "The Postwar Economic Legacy of Japan's Wartime Empire," pp. 324-34

Goto Ken'ichi, "Contemporary Japanese Views of Occupation of Southeast Asia," pp. 266-91

Leo Ching, "Imaginings in the Empire of the Sun: Japanese mass culture in Asia," *Boundary*, 2, 21, pp. 198-2194/23 **Research Paper due**