Description

This course investigates the history and culture of Japanese imperialism – the colonial and postcolonial relation between Japan and the neighbouring nation-states. Such a question necessitates a theoretical investigation of imperialism itself, how imperialism as a regime of accumulation relates to the capitalist mode of production as a whole, and how it relates to the historical formation of nation-states. We utilize this moment as an index of general reflections on colonialism and imperialism, the formation of capitalism, the geopolitics of imperialist power and its reflection in cultural forms.

General Topics and Reading Assignments

Since we are online in the academic year 2020-21, this upper-division class will have a different form than usual. Since we are a significantly international student body and we must attempt to accommodate different time zones, it is impossible to maintain constant ‘live’ discussion. Instead, we will have the lecture component of the course via video, which will be posted each week by 2:30pm. Please watch the video lecture to accompany your readings. During the term we will have certain ‘live’ sessions on Zoom for discussion – it is important to note that, per McGill Faculty of Arts policy, these sessions are not mandatory. It may be impossible for all of you to participate in these. In this sense, this class will be a quite self-directed reading class, in which the bulk of your experience will be reading and writing. Please consider this when deciding to take the class. For more information on the orientation of the class, you may consult my profile at http://www.gavinwalker.ca to give you a sense of the theoretical and historical direction of the course.

Evaluation and Grading

1) Weekly response papers of 1 page, responding to the readings, should be turned in by email, beginning Week 2. These are intended to provide you with a space to respond in concrete terms to the readings, and to build up your own archive of notes and reactions to the texts. (50% in total).
2) A paper, on a topic related to the history of Japanese imperialism or theory of imperialism/colonialism, of approximately 10 pages (50%), due by email in the last week of the term.

**All readings are posted on myCourses**

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

8 Sept: planning of the course and introduction

**Week 2**


**Week 3**


**Week 4**


**TENTATIVE ZOOM MEETING (To be finalized by add/drop)**

**Week 5**

6 Oct: Leo Ching, “Japan in Asia” and "'Give Me Japan and Nothing Else!’: Postcoloniality, Identity, and the Traces of Colonialism”

**Week 6**


**Week 6**


**TENTATIVE ZOOM MEETING (To be finalized by add/drop)**
Week 7

Week 8
3 Nov: Yokomitsu Riichi – Shanghai, part I

Week 9
10 Nov: Yokomitsu Riichi – Shanghai, part II; Seiji Lippit – “Topographies of Empire: Yokomitsu Riichi’s Shanghai”

Week 11
17 Nov: Komori Yōichi – “Rule in the Name of ‘Protection’: The Vocabulary of Colonialism”; Michel Foucault – “The Right to Death and Power over Life”

TENTATIVE ZOOM MEETING (To be finalized by add/drop)

Week 12
24 Nov: Frantz Fanon – Wretched of the Earth, part I

Week 13
1 Dec: Frantz Fanon – Wretched of the Earth, part II

FINAL PAPERS DUE TUESDAY DECEMBER 15 (by email)

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

L’université McGill attache une haute importance à l’honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l’on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l’étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest). Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).