

HIGR212  
Spring 2009  
Class Meetings: Wed. 9-12, HSSB 3086

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Office Hrs: TBA & by appointment

**Colonial Modernity:  
East Asia**

This course will examine the concept of “colonial modernity,” especially as it has been employed in recent publications on East Asia. Our method will be to explore the habitations (to use Dipesh Chakrabarty’s nice phrasing) of colonial modernity through a series of linked concepts and sites that include bio-power, governmentality, race (and its surrogate, ethnicity), capitalism, nationalism, identity, consumption, gender, family, sex, race, media culture, labor, and violence. In addition to works on the Japanese colonial empire, we will consider writings of theoretical or comparative relevance that will help us consider the modernity/colonialism nexus as a global problem. Graduate students from all fields and disciplines are welcome.

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. Lead one or more sessions. Every participant should also come prepared to propose at least two questions for each class meeting.
2. 1-2 page (double-spaced) commentary on each week’s reading, to be handed in at the end of each class and graded P/NP. These are not meant to be polished pieces of writing but should include a concise (i.e., no more than one paragraph) statement of each book. In the weeks when there are a large number of pieces, you need not cover them all, but should identify and comment on some of the common themes. The comments should not just summarize, but should reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of the readings.
3. A longer paper (13-15 pp.) on a topic tailored to your particular interest. You will be expected to read the equivalent of two to three books beyond those on the required list. By the second week of class, participants will receive a lengthy bibliography of secondary works on the Japanese colonial empire. This list will be helpful and perhaps even sufficient for framing a topic, but students should feel free to explore beyond it. You might write, for example, on the question of bio-power and Japanese colonialism, approaches toward the “comfort women” issue, a comparison of the Japanese empire to the British or French empires, the “new woman” in several colonial contexts, and so on. You must have the instructor’s approval for your topic by Week VIII, at the latest. Due Friday (6/12) of finals week.

**BOOKS**

NOTE: Because of uncertainty about the number of students taking this class, the required texts have NOT been ordered. If possible, purchase them on your own before the beginning of the quarter. All books are on reserve at the SSH library, and articles and book chapters are on e-reserve.

Andrew F. Jones, *Yellow Music: Media Culture and Colonial Modernity in the Chinese Jazz Age* (Duke U. Press, 2001).

Ruth Rogaski, *Hygienic Modernity: Meanings of Health and Disease in Treaty-Port China* (UC,

Press, 2004). [This book is in hardback only. We may have to share a couple of copies.]

Ann Laura Stoler. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* (UC Press, 2002).

C. Sarah Suh, *The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan* (U of Chicago Press, 2009)  
Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia* (Columbia U. Press, 2008).  
Theodore Jun Yoo, *The Politics of Gender in Colonial Korea* (UC Press, 2008) [This book is in hardback only, and we will only read chapters 3 & 4 together].

#### **ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (I, 4/1)**

#### **MANIFESTOS (II, 4/8)**

Tani Barlow, "Introduction: On 'Colonial Modernity'" in Tani Barlow, ed., *Formations of Colonial Modernity* (Duke U. Press, 1997): 1-20. .  
"Introduction: Rethinking Colonial Korea," in Gi-Wook Shin and Michael Robinson, ed., *Colonial Modernity in Korea [CMK]* (Cambridge: Harvard U. Press, 1999): 1-18.  
Liao Ping-hui, "Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945: History, Culture, Memory," in Liao Ping-hui and David Der-wei Wang, ed., *Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945 [TJCR]* (Columbia U Press, 2006): 1-15.  
Wakabayashi Masahiro, "A Perspective on Studies of Taiwanese Political History," *TJCR*, 19-36.  
Michel Foucault, "Governmentality," in Graham Burchell, et. al., ed. *The Foucault Effect* (U. of Chicago Press, 1991), 87-104  
David Scott, "Colonial Governmentality," *Social Text* 43 (August 1995): 191-220

#### **POWER IN NUMBERS AND SOCIAL CATEGORIES (III, 4/15)**

Bernard Cohn, "Introduction," in *Colonialism and its Forms of Knowledge* (Princeton U. Press, 1996), 1-15.  
Arjun Appadurai, "Number in the Colonial Imagination," in *Modernity at Large* (U. of Minnesota Press, 1996): 114-35  
Clark Sorensen, "National Identity and the Creation of the Category 'Peasant' in Colonial Korea," in *CMK*, 288-310.  
Yao Jen-to, "The Japanese Colonial State and its Form of Knowledge in Taiwan," in *TUJCR*. 37-61.  
Theodore Jun Yoo, *The Politics of Gender in Colonial Korea* (UC Press), chapters 3 & 4.

#### **CAPITALISM, NATIONALISM, COLONIALISM (IV, 4/22)**

Hyun Ok Park *Two Dreams in One Bed: Empire, Social Llife, and the Origins of the North Korean Revolution in Manchuria*.

#### **BIO-POWER (V, 4/29)**

Michel Foucault. "Right of Death and Power over Life." In *The History of Sexuality*, 135-59.  
Ruth Rogaski, *Hygienic Modernity: Meanings of Health and Disease in Treaty-Port China*

#### **SEX, GENDER AND THE INTIMACIES OF RULE I (VI, 5/6)**

Ann Laura Stoler. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power*, 1-161.  
T. Fujitani, "The Colonial and National Politics of Gender, Sex and Family," in *Racism under Fire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans* (forthcoming, UC Press).

Possible Film: *Korea Strait (Chosŏn haehyŏp or Chŏsen kaikyō)*

**MEDIA CULTURE** (VII, 5/13)

Andrew F. Jones, *Yellow Music: Media Culture and Colonial Modernity in the Chinese Jazz Age*

Tani Barlow, "'s Career in Postwar China Studies," in Tani Barlow, ed., *Formations of Colonial Modernity* (Duke U. Press, 1997): 373-411.

**IDENTITIES** (VIII, 5/20)

Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia*.

Leo Ching, "'Into the Muddy Stream: Triple Consciousness and Colonial Historiography in *The Orphan of Asia*," in Leo Ching, *Becoming "Japanese."* (UC Press, 2001), 174-210.

Fong, Shiao-Chian, "Hegemony and Identity in the Colonial Experience of Taiwan, 1895-1945," *TJCR*, 161-83.

Peng Hsiao-yen, "Colonialism and the Predicament of Identity," in *TJCR*, 210-247.

Possible Film: *Bell of Sayon* (*Sayon no kane*) FVL ConCirc ; FVLDV 5385-1

Students must have talked to the instructor and received his approval for the long paper topic by the end of this week.

**VIOLENCE AND NECROPOLITICS** (IX, 5/27)

C. Sarah Suh, *The Comfort Women: Sexual Violence and Postcolonial Memory in Korea and Japan*

Achille Mbembe. "Necropolitics." *Public Culture* 15(1): 11-40.

**INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS** (X, 6/2)

Each student must have read at least two-thirds of the works to be considered for the longer paper and make a brief presentation on the proposed topic.

Takashi Fujitani 2/16/09 9:13 PM

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