This course examines the 20th and 21st century histories and legacies of colonialism, imperialism, and nationalism in Japan. With particular attention to the relationship between modernity/modernism and race and racism, this course will offer a series of discussions about the stakes of literary, artistic, and intellectual work in how the ideas of “Japan” and "Japaneseness" are shaped and transformed over modern and contemporary history.

Course materials will include short stories, critical essays, newspaper articles, maps, episodes of contemporary anime (Attack on Titan), philosophical texts, and films.