The course will place the region as a whole in a historical context that reveals the emergence of the present day nations of what we call Southeast Asia. This is an introductory course to the countries of contemporary Southeast Asia: Brunei, Burma (Myanmar), Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The course will place the region as a whole in a historical context that reveals the emergence of the present day nations of what we call Southeast Asia. Cross-listed with JSIS A 221.
HSTCMP 485   Comparative Colonialism   5 cr
MTWTh  1:10-3:20 A-Term  LOW 102  RAFAEL

What is colonialism and how does it historically come about? How is the practice of comparison related to colonial histories? In what ways are questions about authority—for example, the narrative authority to impose one’s stories and the political authority to impose one’s will—repeatedly raised in Western encounters with non-Western peoples? Indeed, in the wake of colonialism and in an era of globalization, do these categories “Western” and “non-Western” still make sense? What role does nationalism play in determining the limits and possibilities of colonial rule? How is nationalism related to cosmopolitanism as twin alternatives to imperial domination? In addressing these questions, this course will examine a variety of historical, literary, and cinematic productions set in colonial contexts ranging from the Americas to Asia and Africa, including the recent US "war on terror." In doing so, the course will treat colonialism as a world historical event whose effects continue to be felt and whose power needs to be addressed. (35% SE Asia content) Cross-listed with CHID 485.