This graduate-level course investigates imperial Japan and its colonized periphery (Korea, Manchuria, and later, portions of China) as a lens to view complex issues of home front-battlefield interactions, gender, and postwar reconstruction. We also examine how individuals experienced life under wartime conditions and dealt with its aftermath following either buoying victory (Sino-Japanese, 1894-1895 and Russo-Japanese Wars, 1904-1905) or defeat (Asia-Pacific War, 1937-1945). In its phase of imperial expansion, Japan occupied numerous surrounding territories, but after losing World War II, experienced Allied Occupation (1945-1952). Contemporary Japan currently exists as thriving democracy and peaceful international actor, but a wartime legacy of an expansionist, militarist past continues to haunt relations with its continental neighbors. This course also examines how Japanese themselves experienced war and viewed their society.