Much of the world’s population in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries lived in empires—in polities characterized by cultural distinction and political inequality. By the end of the 1960s, the age of colonial empires was over. This course examines what colonialism signified in the modern age. It traces policies and practices of the colonizing regimes, and the responses of colonial subjects as they struggled both within and against colonial rule. We will pay particular attention to the dynamic relationship between overseas colonies and their European metropoles, focusing on the changing significance of race and gender, and the importance of nationalism and other forms of political mobilization.