

Media and Empire
Spring 2016
Mid-Semester Paper
Professor Chakravartty

- You are required to write mid-semester paper (double spaced, standard font 11-12) that addresses one of two questions outlined below. Please indicate on the first page of your paper which question you are addressing. Please make sure your paper addresses all parts of the question you choose.
- This paper counts for a total of 30 percent towards your final grade and is due by **5:00 PM on Thursday, March 11th**. Please upload your paper as a **Word Document** on the class website (under the Assignments Tab). Each day a paper is late will lead to a loss of a half-letter grade (A paper would be given an A-), and papers are not be accepted one week after the deadline. This is barring medical and other documented emergencies.
- Your paper should engage with the central ideas that have been discussed in the texts and materials we have covered in class thus far. I am looking for a close reading and analysis of the works we have read in class as opposed to a research-based paper where you would seek out additional secondary scholarship. As such, please avoid drawing from online sources and other materials that are *not* assigned for this class. If you do feel compelled to cite work that we have not read in this class, please make sure to provide full citation (including any online references).
- In addition to the authors indicated in each question, you can also draw from any additional documentaries, clips or other online materials that were posted on the course website, or shown in class as relevant to your paper.
- You will be graded based on substantive argument(s), thoroughness of your reading of texts, accuracy, originality, organization and grammar and style. Please think through the paper well in advance of its due-date and work with an outline.

- Please avoid strings of quotations in the body of the paper, and use quotes to illustrate not to make your points. Always define central concepts and terms, make your points as clearly as possible without repetition and be as historically specific as possible in your writing.
- You can follow either APA or MLA citation guidelines, so long as you remain consistent. Please remember to always provide full citations for all materials that you are quoting both directly and indirectly. Please remember to provide full citations for all online materials, including date of retrieval. *Plagiarism can result in consequences varying from a warning to more formal consequences through the university, including failing the class.*

Questions

- 1) What makes modern US Empire distinct as a political project? In your paper, consider how the history of US occupation and indirect rule in the Philippines beginning in 1898 has shaped ideas about violence, liberal democracy, race and citizenship? Finally, consider whether the arguments made by anti-colonial thinkers may have relevance in the context of the US' colonial interventions in the Philippines? In your discussion, draw from *at least* four of the following sources: (Mamdani, McCoy, Adas, Larkin, Fanon, Césaire)

OR

- 2) Why are media technologies important to the making of modern Empire in the 19th and early 20th centuries? In your paper, consider both the material as well as symbolic dimensions that have shaped territorial or military control on the one hand and ideas about racial and cultural supremacy, on the other? Finally, discuss how anti-colonial thinkers address the power of media infrastructure and culture in their writings? In your discussion, draw from at least four of the following sources: (McCoy, Adas, Larkin, McClintock, Balce, Shohat & Stam, Fanon and Césaire)