

History 314: Non-Western Civilization: Japan and World War II
Tues./Thurs. 3:00–4:15 pm
Classroom: BR 235
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Office: BR 327
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Office Hours:
Wed. 1–4 &
by appointment

Japan and the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific

World War II is the defining event of modern Japanese history. As a nation, Japan inflicted untold suffering on other, mostly Asian, peoples and also experienced near complete destruction itself. This course will examine the lead up, the experience, and the aftermath of roughly 15 years of war for Japan. The first part of the course will be an historical overview of the rise of Imperial Japan and its trek toward war in Asia and the Pacific. The second half of the course will examine important issues in depth, such as the war at home, the significance of race, and the use of atomic bombs to end the war. The course will end with a look at the legacies of the war that continue to impact Japanese domestic and foreign policies.

In addition to secondary and primary historical sources, this course draws from the genres of film and fiction to understand the wartime experiences of the Japanese. The authors of both historical scholarship and fiction have personal points of view and biases that are conveyed in their texts. This is perhaps even truer for works on World War II. Political and personal passions are never far from the surface in most writings on the war in Asia and the Pacific. Students should engage the readings critically, always keeping in mind such questions as, how do different texts compare, what is included, what is omitted, and why is this text important to our understanding of the war. A critical reading of each text will be central to the discussion portion of this course.

This course will utilize both lecture and seminar formats. The first half of the course (up to the midterm) will be lecture-based but will also include short discussions. Following the midterm, the Tuesday class will be lecture and the Thursday class will be devoted entirely to discussion. **Please come to the discussion class having completed the readings for that week – the success of this course depends largely on your preparation and participation.**

Texts: Available at the Bookstore for purchase and at the Library.

Gibney, Frank, ed. *Sensō: The Japanese Remember the Pacific War*. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2007.

Iriye, Akira, ed. *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War: A Brief History with Documents and Essays*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 1999.

Dower, John. *War Without Mercy: Race & Power in the Pacific War*. New York: Pantheon, 1986.

Ooka, Shohei. *Fires on the Plain*. Translated by Ivan Morris. Rutland, VT: Tuttle, 2001.

All other readings for this course are available as Course Documents on Sakai.

Assessment:

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|--------------------------|-----|
| 1. Midterm Exam: | 25% |
| 2. Short Movie Paper: | 25% |
| 3. Participation: | 15% |
| 4. Final Research Paper: | 35% |

Movie Paper: You will write a 3-4 page (double-spaced) movie review/comparison of the film *Letters from Iwo Jima* (to be viewed in class) and one film of your choice from those listed below (to be viewed on your own outside of class). The paper should examine and compare the director's representation of the Japanese wartime experience in each film. More information about this paper assignment will be distributed in class prior to the spring break recess. The paper is due in class on **March 25th**.

Choose one of the movies listed below to compare with *Letters from Iwo Jima*. All movies are available on reserve at the library.

1. *Fires on the Plain*. 1959. Dir. Ichikawa Kon
2. *The Burmese Harp*. 1956. Dir. Ichikawa Kon
3. *Red Angel*. 1966. Dir. Masumura Yasuzo
4. *Japan's Longest Day*. 1967. Dir. Okamoto Kihachi

Final Research Paper: You will write a 10-page research paper on a topic of your choice. The topic, however, must be related to Japan and World War II. The paper is to be based on primary and secondary historical sources. Outside research is expected and internet-based sources should be kept to a minimum. A **one-page paper prospectus** outlining your proposed paper topic and the sources to be used is due in class on **April 8th**. The **completed paper** is due on **May 11th**. More information on the paper and sample paper topics will be handed out after spring break.

Exam: There will be an in-class **midterm** on **February 25th**. There is no final examination scheduled for this course at this time.

Class Participation: Attendance is required. Your participation grade will be based on attendance, web postings, participation in class discussion, and leading one class discussion as part of a group. You will be grouped together and assigned one of the seven discussion days after the midterm for which you will lead class discussion. Collectively, your group will pose questions and moderate the discussion during the class period. More information will be provided in class prior to the first formal discussion. See below for more information on the web postings.

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE:

Week 1	Th (1/21)	Introduction: What to Call the War?
Week 2	Tu (1/26) Th (1/28)	The Rise of Imperial Japan: Part I The Rise of Imperial Japan: Part II
Week 3	Tu (2/2) Th (2/4)	The Teens and Twenties: WWI and the League of Nations The Teens and Twenties: The “Threat” of a Unified China
Week 4	Tu (2/9) Th (2/11)	The Early 1930s: Japan in “Crisis” The 2 nd Sino-Japanese War
Week 5	Tu (2/16) Th (2/18)	The Road to Pearl Harbor: Part I The Road to Pearl Harbor: Part II
Week 6	Tu (2/23) Th (2/25)	The Pacific War: A Concise History Midterm Examination
Week 7	Tu (3/2) Th (3/4)	Film: “Letters from Iwo Jima” begin Film: “Letters from Iwo Jima” conclude
Week 8	Tu (3/9) Th (3/11)	The Japanese Soldier’s Experience Discussion: The novel <i>Fires on the Plain</i>
Week 9	Tu (3/16) Th (3/18)	Spring Break: No class Spring Break: No class
Week 10	Tu (3/23) Th (3/25)	The Home Front in Japan and the Colonies Discussion: The Home Front MOVIE PAPER DUE IN CLASS
Week 11	Tu (3/30) Th (4/1)	Film: “Know Your Enemy” Discussion of Race and the Pacific War
Week 12	Tu (4/6) Th (4/8)	Kamikaze and the End of the War Discussion: Kamikaze and the End of the War Final Research Paper Prospectus Due in Class
Week 13	Tu (4/13) Th (4/15)	Film: “White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki” Discussion: The Atomic Bomb and the End of the Pacific War
Week 14	Tu (4/20)	The American Occupation of Japan

	Th (4/22)	Discussion: The Japanese experience under occupation
Week 15	Tu (4/27) Th (4/29)	Legacy of War: The Problem of Memory Discussion: The War's Legacies
Week 16	Tu (5/4)	Conclusion

FINAL PAPER DUE TUESDAY, MAY 11, 12 PM (NOON)

READING SCHEDULE:

Those readings marked with a # are available on Blackboard.

Week 1: Introduction

No readings

Week 2: The Rise of Imperial Japan

- #Fukuzawa, Yukichi. "Leaving Asia (*Datsu-A ron*)."
- #Iriye, Akira. "Japan's Drive to Great-Power Status," in *The Cambridge History of Japan*. Vol. 5. Cambridge University Press, 1989. 721-782.

Week 3: World War I and the Interwar Years

- #Burkman, Thomas. "The World War I Experience," in *Japan and the League of Nations*. University of Hawaii Press, 2007. 1-28.
- #Nish, Ian. "An Overview of Relations Between China and Japan, 1895-1945." *China Quarterly* 124 (Dec. 1990): 601-623.

Week 4: The 1930s

- Sensō*, Chapter 3, "The China War" (59-97).
- #Yang, Daqing. "Convergence or Divergence? Recent Historical Writings on the Rape of Nanjing." *The American Historical Review* 104:3 (June 1999): 842-865.

Week 5: The Road to Pearl Harbor

- Iriye, Akira. *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War*, 1-104.

Week 6: The Pacific War

- #Coox, Alvin. "The Pacific War," in *The Cambridge History of Japan*. Vol. 6. Cambridge UP, 1988. 315-382. **Not required. For reference only.**

Week 7: Letters from Iwo Jima

- #Dower, John. "Lessons from Iwo Jima." *Perspectives* 45:6 (Sept. 2007): 54-56.
- #Kakehashi, Kumiko. *So Sad to Fall in Battle: An Account of War Based on*

General Tadamichi Kuribayashi's Letters from Iwo Jima. Chapter 2, "22 Square KM of Wilderness" (21-38); Chapter 3, "The Strategy" (39-57); and Chapter 6, "The American Invasion" (97-114).

Week 8: The Japanese Soldier's Experience

Ooka, Shohei. *Fires on the Plain*. (entire)

Week 9: Spring Break

Enjoy your break!

Week 10: War and the Home Front

Sensō, Chapter 6, "The Home Front" (169-200).

#*Japan at War: An Oral History*, (231–258).

Week 11: Race and the Pacific War

Dower, John. *War Without Mercy*. Chapter 2, "Know Your Enemy" (15-32); Chapter 4, "Apes and Others" (77-93); Chapter 8, "The Pure Self" (203-233).

Week 12: Desperation: The Kamikaze

#Ohnuki-Tierney, Emiko. *Kamikaze Diaries: Reflections of Japanese Student Soldiers*. University of Chicago Press, 2006. Preamble (xiii-xviii), Chapter 1, "Sasaki Hachiro" (39–69), "Takushima Norimitsu" (103–133).

Week 13: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the A-Bomb

#Fussell, Paul. "Thank God for the Atom Bomb. Hiroshima: A Soldier's View." *The New Republic*, August 26 and 29, 1981, pp. 28-30.

#Walzer, Michael. "A Dissenting View." *The New Republic*, Sept. 23, 1981, pp. 13-14.

#Walker, J. Samuel. "The Decision to Use the Bomb: A Historiographical Update," in *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, Michael J. Hogan, ed. Cambridge UP, 1996. 11-37.

#*Hibakusha: Survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*. Kosei Publishing, 1986. 33-56.

Week 14: The American Occupation of Japan

Sensō, Chapter 9, "Japan Under Occupation" (263-281).

#Dower, John. "A Warning from History."

Baerwald, Hans. "The Occupation of Japan as an Exercise in "Regime Change": Reflections after Fifty Years by a Participant," JPRI Occasional Paper 29, February 2003.

Available online at: <http://www.jpri.org/publications/occasionalpapers/op29.html>

Week 15: The War's Legacy

#Kristof, Nicholas. "The Problem of Memory," *Foreign Affairs* 77:6 (November/December 1998): 37-49.

#Mitter, Rana. "Remembering the Forgotten War," *History Today* 55:8 (August 2005): 17-19.

#Rosenberg, Emily. "Remembering Pearl Harbor Before September 11, 2001." pp. 15-48.

Week 16: Conclusion

No readings.

WEB POSTINGS

Prior to Thursday class meetings, you are required to respond to the question(s) posed on the discussion forum on Sakai for this course. The web postings are part of your participation grade for the course.

- Please post by the deadline: **Thursday, 11 AM.**
- The weeks that discussion questions will be posted are: Weeks 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 (10 total)
- You are required to post answers for **7** out of the 10 weeks.
- Answers should draw from that week's readings and be one "healthy" paragraph in length.

History Department Recommendations for Students on Plagiarism

December 2006

Definition

Plagiarism is "the act of incorporating ideas, words, or specific substance of another, whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained, and submitting same to the University as one's work to fulfill academic requirements without giving credit to the appropriate source. Plagiarism shall include but not be limited to a) submitting work, either in part or in whole, completed by another; b) omitting footnotes for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions that belong to another; c) omitting quotation marks when quoting directly from another, whether it be a paragraph, sentence, or part thereof; d) close and lengthy paraphrasing of the writings of another; e) submitting another person's artistic works, such as musical compositions, photographs, paintings, drawings, or sculptures; and f) submitting as one's own work papers purchased from research companies."¹

In sum, there are essentially five types of plagiarism:

- Written or creative work that is done in part or entirely by another person

¹ http://its.sdsu.edu/turnitin/pdf/Plagiarism_AcadSen.pdf.

- Omission of footnotes for someone else's ideas, statements, or facts
- Omission of quotation marks when quoting someone else's ideas, statements, or facts
- Close paraphrasing of another person's work
- Submission of papers purchased from research companies.

Avoidance:

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit with a footnote whenever you use

- another person's idea, opinion, or theory
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings--any pieces of information--that are not common knowledge
- quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words
- paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

For examples on how to use footnotes check the following websites:

Chicago Manual of Style (CMS) Source Citation
<http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.php>

Diana Hacker, History: Documenting Sources (includes a sample paper)
http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c10_s1.html

Chicago/Turabian Documentation, Writing Center, UW Madison
<http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/DocChicago.html>
 Citing Your Sources, UC Berkeley
 Chicago & Turabian Style Basic Guidelines (pdf file)
<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Citations.html>

How to Cite References Using the Turabian (Chicago) Style, UW Parkside
<http://www.uwp.edu/departments/library/guides/turabian.htm>

Consequences:

A grade of “zero” will be given for any form of plagiarism, or cheating, on written assignments or exams during the semester. According to the Student Handbook, “in the case of a student plagiarizing on a final research paper or project, a “F” shall also be assigned for the course grade.”²

² Student Handbook, 2006-7, “Cheating and Plagiarism, 35.