Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies
amy.marshall@fiu.edu

THE PACIFIC WAR IN ASIA

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will make use of film, oral histories, historical fiction and more traditional forms of historical interpretation to explore the events, ideas and legacies of World War II in the Pacific theatre. The armed conflict began in 1937 with the Japanese invasion of China, but was the product of many years of crisis at home and abroad. One thread of the war’s narrative ended in 1945 with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but Japan, the West and Asia continue to wrestle with the war’s meaning and legacies. The principal concerns of the course fall into the three areas of mutual images, mobilization, and memory.

Course Goals
“The Pacific War in Asia” seeks to provide students with a nuanced historical understanding of the causal factors, home-front experiences, and legacies of the Second World War in Asia, primarily from the perspective of Japan’s citizens and decision-makers. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the key diplomatic and military developments of the 1930s and 1940s, with the longer-term processes associated with the war and with Occupation, and will be able to describe them accurately and in depth. The course will also help students hone their analytical skills through close study of primary sources and encounters with the questions historians have posed about power, culture and ideology in this most brutal conflict.

COURSE OBJECTIVES & AIMS
Students will:
• Understand cultural and academic materials on World War Two;
• Critically engage with historical and cultural studies methods;
• Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills by writing analytic essays and doing in-class presentations;
• Undertake a small amount of independent research after being oriented to FIU’s libraries;
• Articulate interpretive arguments concisely and clearly;
• Utilize critical listening skills by providing constructive criticism for their classmates’ presentations.

GLOBAL LEARNING & OUTCOMES
• Global Awareness:
  Students will display knowledge of the interconnectedness of global issues, trends, and systems influencing the development and legacies of the Pacific War in Asia.
• Global Perspective:
  Students will be able to construct analyses of issues related to the Second World War from national, transnational, international, and global perspectives.
• Global Engagement:
  Students will demonstrate an ability to identify, research, and propose solutions or alternative approaches to issues concerning memory and legacies of the Pacific War.
Many components of the course foster active learning strategies. Students should be prepared to analyze assigned readings and other materials, and to share opinions, ideas, and questions during the discussion in class. Participation in the course will account for 15% of your grade in the course.

Other components of the course include:

Discussion Questions/Comments — Except on days when films are shown, students will print and bring at least three questions or provocative comments for each meeting to help stimulate the discussion, address any confusion about that week’s readings, or critique the materials assigned. These submissions will account for 5% of your grade in the course.

Quizzes — There will be two quizzes to ascertain student knowledge of the course materials. Each quiz will account for 5% of your grade in the course, together accounting for 10% percent of the total grade.

Analytic Essays — Students will write at least two short analytical papers, of no more than 1200 words each, in response to questions to be distributed in class. Each question will be associated with specific reading assignments, primary texts, or films. These assignments allow students to creatively engage with course materials and express their opinions about the conclusions they’ve drawn. Neither paper will require outside research. Each paper will account for 15% of your grade in the course, together accounting for 30% percent of the total grade.

In-Class Presentation & Feedback — There will be an in-class individual presentation to be scheduled for the last weeks of the term. In addition to presenting one’s own thesis, students will be required to provide written constructive criticism for the other presenters. The presentation and responses to classmates will each account for 10% of your grade in the course, together accounting for 20% percent of the total grade.

Modular In-class Assignments, Attendance & Participation — attendance in this course is both crucial and required. Sufficient preparedness for our activities and productive contributions to them are essential to the success of our course. These will account for 20% percent of the total grade. There is a participation rubric on Blackboard for your reference.

Resources and Texts
This course utilizes BlackBoard. The site includes links to web sites with primary documents, analyses and narratives dealing with the Pacific War. It also provides access to more mundane administrative information.
SYLLABUS

Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies
amy.marshall@fiu.edu

Texts available at the bookstore and on reserve at Library

John W. Dower, War Without Mercy, Race, and Power in the Pacific War, Pantheon, 1987. (Also available in digital format.)
Yuki Tanaka, Japan’s Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery and Prostitution During World War Two and the U.S. Occupation, Routledge, 2002. (Also available in digital format.)

Additional texts for background reading


COURSE PREREQUISITES
While a background in East Asian Studies is not required, such knowledge along with any other cultural, literary, or historical background would be helpful to students taking this course. Previous study of Japanese, Chinese, or Korean language is not required for the course, as the materials used will all be in English translation (or subtitled).

COURSE POLICIES
All assignments, exams, and exercises are due as indicated on the syllabus. Please let me know if you encounter any difficulties in the course, including any associated with deadlines. There will be no make-ups or extensions except for medical emergency, in which case you will need to provide appropriate documentation. Failure to complete a required component of the course will result in a failing grade. 4 absences (excused or otherwise) in a row or 6 combined absences will result in a failing grade if the student does not withdraw from the course. The University Drop Date for TERM 20## is MONTH DD.

Plagiarism or other offenses against the Code of Academic Integrity will result in a failing grade and possible disciplinary action by the University. This can be found at: http://academic.fiu.edu/AcademicBudget/misconductweb/Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf
As is noted on the FIU website, students are expected to do their own work and avoid plagiarizing, understood as “the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s works without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.”
Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
SYLLABUS

Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies
amy.marshall@fiu.edu

✧ Term papers acquired online or from other sources;
✧ Copying of original material without attribution;
✧ Use of other students’ work;
✧ Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

See: http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism for specific recommendations regarding proper citation of sources in historical analysis. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns on these or other issues.
SYLLABUS

Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies
amy.marshall@fiu.edu

LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

Contexts
- Wednesday, September: Introductions
- Friday, September: Japan in the World
  Activity: Think-Pair-Share
- Monday, September: Politics and Power
  Activity: Source Analysis - Visual materials (The 5-Cs)
- Wednesday, September: Citizens and Soldiers

Readings: Ienaga Saburo, The Pacific War, pp. vii-128.

Times of Crisis: the 1930s
- Friday, September: The Colonies, China and a Changing World Order
  Activity: Role Play [Japanese Farmer, Japanese Colonial Administrator,
  Taiwanese Farmer, Korean Businessperson, Japanese Soldier, etc.]
- Monday, September: Times of Crisis
- Wednesday, September: Manchuria
  Activity: Issue Map (brain-cloud)
- Friday, September: The Military and the Politics of the 1930s
- Monday, September: Going to War with China
  Activity: Source Analysis - Diplomatic documents
- Wednesday, September: Discussion section

Readings: James Auer and Tsuneo Watanabe, From Marco Polo Bridge to Pearl Harbor,
pp. 7-85; Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, The Nanking Atrocity, 1937-38: Complicating the
Picture, pp. ix-54, 115-178, 248-264; Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook,
Japan at War, An Oral History, pp. 3-68.

The Road to War with the United States
- Friday, September: Imagining a war between Japan and the U.S.
- Monday, September: Encirclement
- Wednesday, October: What Was Negotiable?
  Activity: Charting significant concerns [Japan, China, US, UK, etc.]
- Friday, October: The Early Course of the Greater East Asia War
- Monday, October: War Aims
- Wednesday, October: Discussion sections

Readings: Ienaga, The Pacific War, pp. 129-180; Auer and Watanabe, From Marco Polo
Bridge to Pearl Harbor, pp. 87-155; Cook and Cook, Japan at War, An Oral History,
pp. 69-167; John W. Dower, War Without Mercy, begin. (Also available in digital
format.)

Film: Know Your Enemy: Japan, directed by Frank Capra, 1944.

The Wars at Home
- Friday, October: Mobilization
- Monday, October: National Holiday ~ No Class
- Wednesday, October: Wartime Politics
SYLLABUS

Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies
amy.marshall@fiu.edu

Friday, October x Homeland Security: Controlling Dissent
Monday, October x Film, Music, Text
Activity: Comparing contexts of media production
Wednesday, October x Discussion sections

Cook and Cook, *Japan at War*, pp. 159-257.

Film: *Momotarō: Divine Troops of the Ocean*, directed by Seo Mitsuyo, 1945. See handout for text.

Friday, October x Daily Lives
Monday, October x Women at War
Wednesday, October x Discussion sections

Readings: Yuki Tanaka, *Japan’s Comfort Women*, excerpts (Also available in digital format.);
Kenneth J. Ruoff, *Imperial Japan at its Zenith*, pp. 1-81, 180-188.

Film: *The Most Beautiful*, directed by Akira Kurosawa, 1944. See handout for text.

Endings
Friday, October x Last Battles
Monday, November x The Contexts of Defeat
Wednesday, November x Imagining the End
Friday, November x The Atomic Bombings
Activity: Using Art & Literature to understand history
Monday, November x Surrendering
Wednesday, November x Discussion sections

Readings: Auer and Watanabe, *From Marco Polo Bridge to Pearl Harbor*, pp. 157-206.;


History, Memory and Defeat
Friday, November x Occupation
Monday, November x The Reforms
Wednesday, November x The War Crimes Trials
Activity: Role Play [Tōjō, MacArthur, C-Level Defendant, Journalist, etc.]
Friday, November x Stragglers
Monday, November x Apologies
Wednesday, November x *Thanksgiving holiday*
Friday, November x *Thanksgiving holiday*
Monday, December x Textbooks, Museums, Memorials
Wednesday, December x Discussion sections


Film: *Yasukuni* directed by Ying Li, 2007.

Friday, December x Today