

SYLLABUS

Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies
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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.

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☞ COURSE REQUIREMENTS ☞

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.

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Texts available at the bookstore and on reserve at Library

James E. Auer and Tsuneo Watanabe. *From Marco Polo Bridge to Pearl Harbor: Who Was Responsible?* 1st ed. Tokyo, Japan: Yomiuri Shimbun, 2006.

Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook, *Japan at War, An Oral History*, New Press, 1993.

John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*, W.W. Norton and Company, 1999.

John W. Dower, *War Without Mercy, Race, and Power in the Pacific War*, Pantheon, 1987. (Also available in digital format.)

Ienaga Saburo, *The Pacific War: World War II and the Japanese, 1931-1945*. 1st American ed ed. New York: Pantheon Books, 1978.

Bob Tadashi Wakabayashi, *The Nanking Atrocity, 1937-38: Complicating the Picture*. Vol. Asia Pacific studies; v. 2, New York: Berghahn Books, 2007.

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.)

Kenneth J. Ruoff, *Imperial Japan at its Zenith: The Wartime Celebration of the Empire's 2,600th Anniversary*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2010.

Additional texts for background reading

McClain, James L. *Japan, a Modern History*. 1st ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Co, 2002.

☞ 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:

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- ✧ 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.

Do Not Copy

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LECTURE AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE

Contexts

Wednesday, September x Introductions

Friday, September x Japan in the World

Activity: Think-Pair-Share

Monday, September x Politics and Power

Activity: Source Analysis - Visual materials (The 5-Cs)

Wednesday, September x Citizens and Soldiers

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

Times of Crisis: the 1930s

Friday, September x 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 x Times of Crisis

Wednesday, September x Manchuria

Activity: Issue Map (brain-cloud)

Friday, September x The Military and the Politics of the 1930s

Monday, September x Going to War with China

Activity: Source Analysis - Diplomatic documents

Wednesday, September x 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 x Imagining a war between Japan and the U.S.

Monday, September x Encirclement

Wednesday, October x What Was Negotiable?

Activity: Charting significant concerns [Japan, China, US, UK, etc.]

Friday, October x The Early Course of the Greater East Asia War

Monday, October x War Aims

Wednesday, October x 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 x Mobilization

Monday, October x *National Holiday ~ No Class*

Wednesday, October x Wartime Politics

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Friday, October x

Homeland Security: Controlling Dissent

Monday, October x

Film, Music, Text

Activity: Comparing contexts of media production

Wednesday, October x

Discussion sections

Readings: Ienaga, *The Pacific War*, pp. 181-228; Dower, *War Without Mercy*, complete; 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.; Cook and Cook, *Japan at War*, pp. 259-399; Ienaga, *The Pacific War*, pp. 229-245.

Film: *Wings of Defeat*, directed by Risa Morimoto, 2007.

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

Readings: Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, entire; Auer and Watanabe, *From Marco Polo Bridge to Pearl Harbor*, pp. 207-290; Cook and Cook, *Japan at War*, pp. 401-479; Wakabayashi, *The Nanking Atrocity*, pp. 267-284, 330-393.

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

Friday, December x

Today