

## **World War II in Asia**

Spring 2016

21:510:397

Monday, 2:30–3:50 pm

Wednesday, 1–2:20 pm

Conklin Hall 352

Instructor: Daniel Asen

Office hours: Mondays 4–5 pm and by appointment, Conklin Hall 328

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### **1. Course Description**

World War II (1939-1945) was unprecedented in its global scope, its mobilization of and impact on civilians, and its destructiveness. This conflict transformed the technologies and organization of warfare and ushered in a new era of international politics defined by powerful ideological rifts and the threat of nuclear war. From the perspective of many in Asia, the outbreak of WWII was inseparable from earlier trends surrounding Japan's stunningly successful industrialization and the country's expanding political and economic influence over other societies in East Asia and Southeast Asia. For Japanese, Chinese, Koreans, and others, WWII was thus connected to deeper conflicts and tensions of modernity, colonialism, race, and pan-Asian ideology. This class explores the short-term and long-term causes of WWII, the course of its major military and political engagements, and its historical legacy as both global history and regional history. Students will gain an understanding of the high politics and everyday experience of this major 20<sup>th</sup>-century conflict and its national, regional, and global dimensions.

This class requires no previous knowledge of or coursework about East Asian history. Enrollment is limited to honors students and history majors.

### **2. Learning Goals**

1. Gain a broad understanding of the historical origins, course, and consequences of WWII as it was experienced by the Allied and Axis powers as well as other societies in which fighting was carried out. We will think about WWII as a global war which was inseparable from regional conflicts and tensions, both in Europe and Asia. For this reason, we will spend time examining East Asian history since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, especially Japan's rapid industrialization and the relationships that it negotiated with regional neighbors and the United States, Britain, Germany, France, and Russia. We will learn about both the major long-term and short-term developments that placed the Japanese empire in the center of this global conflict as well as the everyday experience of mobilization and warfare. Thus, we will adopt a broad perspective on the political, economic, and social consequences of war.

2. Gain an understanding of the continuing legacy of WWII in contemporary East Asia. The current political landscape of East Asia is very much the product of developments which occurred in the immediate aftermath of WWII. The Chinese civil war and communist revolution (1949), the remaking of Japan into a democratic country and Cold War ally of the United States, and the partitioning of the Korean peninsula following the Korean War all unfolded in the aftermath of WWII and were connected in complex ways to the legacy of Japanese regional domination. An important goal of this class will be to understand how the outcome of WWII reshuffled political and military alliances in this region (and internationally) and the consequences that these realignments continue to have in the present. We will also think about how the historical memory of WWII continues to shape the political legacy of this conflict in East Asia.

3. Read and critically analyze a range of historical documents. Over the course of the semester, we will read and analyze a wide range of primary sources. When analyzing these sources we will think about questions of historical context (i.e. when and where was it written?), intended audience (i.e. for whom was it written?), and the politics of the text (i.e. which social or political interests is it serving?). In sum, we will think carefully about how we interpret the raw material of history and how we can use it as evidence when making historical claims.

### **3. Assignments and Grading**

Class participation and Attendance – 15%

Paper #1 – 20%

Paper #2 – 25%

Midterm exam – 20%

Final exam – 20%

1. Class participation and Attendance (15%). To receive full credit for participation, you must arrive on time, bring the readings to class, contribute to class discussion, and be respectful of your classmates. If you cannot come to class because of an emergency, please try to contact me in advance. I will record attendance in each class and this will constitute an important component of your final grade.

2. Paper #1 (4-5 pages, 20%). In this paper assignment, which will be explained in a detailed handout, you will be asked to do a close reading and analysis of several short primary source documents which will be provided to you. We will spend time in class discussing the mechanics of paper writing and my expectations for your written work in this class.

3. Paper #2 (5-8 pages, 25%). This paper assignment will be similar to Paper #1, but you will be expected to analyze a set of longer documents and write a longer paper. There will be a detailed handout explaining the assignment.

4. Midterm exam (20%). The midterm will include the following kinds of questions:

- a. Map question: For the midterm you will be asked to identify a number of places and geographical features relevant to the context and course of WWII in Asia on a blank map. You will be provided with a list of the places/features in advance as

well as a map with the places filled in. The map on the test will be a blank version of this same map.

b. Identifications: You will be asked to identify persons / things / events / concepts that we have discussed in class. You will be asked to identify the person/thing/concept and its general time period in a couple of sentences and then discuss its larger historical significance. Your response should be about 4-5 sentences for each identification question. Anything that we cover during the lecture is fair game, especially names/terms that are written on the board.

c. Document identification: Over the course of the semester you will read many primary source documents for homework, identified on the syllabus with the word "Document" or "Documents." For the midterm and final you will be presented with a selection of short excerpts from these documents. You will be asked to identify the general time period of the document, the probable author, and the historical significance of the document. Your response should be about 4-5 sentences for each document identification question.

d. Short essay: Short essay questions on the midterm and final will ask you to make broad connections and comparisons and think about the bigger themes of the class. We will discuss the kinds of questions/themes that will appear in the essay questions in class.

5. Final exam (20%). The final exam will include the same kinds of questions as the midterm. There will be no map question.

#### **4. Course Readings**

You will be required to read significant portions of the following two books for homework, writing assignments, and the midterm and final exams. They will be made available at the bookstore and can be purchased from other sources as well (i.e. Amazon.com):

1. Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett. *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War*. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001. ISBN: 9780674006805

2. Kathryn Meyer. *Life and Death in the Garden: Sex, Drugs, Cops, and Robbers in Wartime China*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-4422-2352-3.

All other readings listed on the syllabus will be made available on the course's Blackboard site.

#### **5. Course Policies**

1. Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, abides by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments (ADAA) of 2008, and Sections 504 and 508 which mandate that reasonable accommodations be provided for

qualified students with disabilities and accessibility of online information. If you have a disability and may require some type of instructional and/or examination accommodation, please contact the Paul Robeson Campus Center, which administers disability services for Rutgers University-Newark. For more information, please see the following link: <http://roberson.rutgers.edu/>

2. If you disagree with a grade on a test or other assignment I will be happy to discuss it, but will not discuss changing it until 24 hours have passed. At that time, please email me a short paragraph explaining why the grade should be changed and then we can talk about it.

3. Academic dishonesty in this class will not be tolerated. Period. This includes plagiarism, cheating, and any other behavior described in the Rutgers University Academic Integrity Policy. **For this reason it is absolutely crucial that you familiarize yourself with this document, which describes the actions that will be counted as violations of academic integrity:** <http://policies.rutgers.edu/10213-currentpdf>

You must include the following Rutgers Honor Code Pledge statement on every assignment which you turn in: "On my honor, I have neither received nor given any unauthorized assistance on this assignment. (Print your name) (Signature) (Date)".

If anyone has any questions at all about this policy, what counts as a violation of academic integrity, or even simply how to cite sources on a paper, I am always happy to discuss these issues with you. Students who plagiarize assignments or otherwise violate academic integrity will receive serious penalties, ranging from a failing grade in the class to suspension.

## **6. Schedule**

### **Jan. 20 Welcome to "World War II in Asia"!**

- Introduction and orientation

### **Jan. 25 War, Trade, and Treaties: Western Powers in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Asia**

- Pankaj Mishra, *From the Ruins of Empire: The Revolt Against the West and the Remaking of Asia* (New York: Picador, 2012), 22-45.

### **Jan. 27 The Opening of Japan and the Meiji Restoration**

- John W. Dower, "Black Ships & Samurai: Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan (1853-1854)" (12 pages)
- John W. Dower, "Throwing Off Asia I: Woodblock Prints of Domestic 'Westernization' (1868-1912)" (19 pages)
- Documents: "The Iwakura Mission" (5 pages)

### **Feb. 1 Japanese Imperialism in East Asia: Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries**

- John W. Dower, "Throwing Off Asia II: Woodblock Prints of the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)" (15 pages)

- John W. Dower, “Throwing Off Asia III: Woodblock Prints of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05)” (6 pages)
- Document: “Treaty of Shimonoseki”

**Feb. 3 Race, Pan-Asianism, and Ideologies of Japanese Imperial Expansion**

- Kim, Hoi-eun, “Anatomically Speaking: The Kubo Incident and the Paradox of Race in Colonial Korea.” In *Race and Racism in Modern East Asia: Western and Eastern Constructions*, edited by Rotem Kowner and Walter Demel. Leiden: Brill, 2013, 411-430.

**Feb. 8 Europe, U.S., Japan, and the Aftermath of WWI**

- Naoko Shimazu, *Japan, Race and Equality: The Racial Equality Proposal of 1919* (London: Routledge, 1998), 13-37.
- Document: “A Call to Reject the Anglo-American Centered Peace” (3 pages)

**Feb. 10 A New International Order and its Repudiation**

- *A War to Be Won*, 149-157
- Meyer, *Life and Death in the Garden*, 29-43.
- Documents: “Manchukuo: Japan in Manchuria” (7 pages)

**Feb. 15 Manchukuo: Power, Ideology, and Everyday Life**

- Meyer, *Life and Death in the Garden*, 103-116.
- Continue to work on Paper #1

**Feb. 17 Europe Destabilized**

- *A War to Be Won*, 1-17.
- Continue to work on Paper #1

**Feb. 22 New Alliances**

- *A War to Be Won*, 157-168.
- Document: “The Tripartite Pact” (2 pages)
- **Paper #1 Due**

**Feb. 24 Pearl Harbor**

- *A War to Be Won*, 169-178.
- Documents: “Decision for War” (10 pages)

**Feb. 29 Review Session (Mandatory)**

- Bring questions that you have about anything that we have covered so far
- We will spend the class session reviewing material and discussing larger themes and connections

## **Mar. 2 Midterm**

### **Mar. 7 The “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” in East and Southeast Asia**

- *A War to Be Won*, 178-188, 221-222.
- Document: “China and Greater East Asia” (7 pages)

### **Mar. 9 Everyday Life in Occupied China: The Case of Beijing**

- Lillian M. Li, Alison J. Dray-Novvey, and Haili Kong. *Beijing: From Imperial Capital to Olympic City*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007, 164-169.
- Aaron Stephen Moore. *Constructing East Asia: Technology, Ideology, and Empire in Japan’s Wartime Era, 1931-1945* (Stanford University Press, 2013), 121-135 (“Urban Technological Imaginaries: The Case of ‘Pan-Asian’ Beijing”).

## **Spring Break**

### **Mar. 21 Wartime Propaganda, Racism, and Japanese-American Internment**

- John W. Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1986), 15-32.

### **Mar. 23 The War in Europe**

- *A War to Be Won*, 411-428, 463-483.

### **Mar. 28 The War in the Pacific**

- *A War to Be Won*, 484-508.
- Document: “Diary of a Student Volunteer for Suicide Mission, 1945” (3 pages)

### **Mar. 30 Watch and discuss *Letters from Iwo Jima* (2006)**

- *A War to Be Won*, 510-516.
- Review the feedback that I gave you on Paper #1 and email me any questions that you have.
- Look over the topics for Paper #2

### **Apr. 4 Watch and discuss *Grave of the Fireflies* (1988)**

- Start reading the sources for Paper #2

### **Apr. 6 Hiroshima and Nagasaki**

- *A War to Be Won*, 516-526.
- Documents: “Report of the Interim Committee on the Military Use of the Atomic Bomb, May 1945,” “Report of the Franck Committee on the Social and Political

Implications of a Demonstration of the Atomic Bomb, June 1945,” “The Potsdam Declaration, July 1945” (8 pages)

**Apr. 11 Remaking Japan: U.S. Occupation, Democracy, and Cold War**

- John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1999), 33-48, 73-84.
- Document: “Treaty of Peace Between the Allied Powers and Japan” (3 pages)

**Apr. 13 China Transformed: From Civil War to Communist Revolution**

- Odd Arne Westad, *Decisive Encounters: The Chinese Civil War, 1946-1950* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003), 17-32.
- Continue working on Paper #2

**Apr. 18 Korea Divided: War and Stalemate**

- Don Oberdorfer, *The Two Koreas: A Contemporary History* (Basic Books, 1997), 1-11.
- Documents: Chinese propaganda posters from the Korean War: <http://chineseposters.net/gallery/theme-03.php>

**Apr. 20 End of the War? Experiences of Post-War Displacement**

- Meyer, *Life and Death in the Garden*, 181-198.
- Document: *From Emperor to Citizen – The Autobiography of Aisin-Gioro Pu Yi*. Volume Two. (Peking: Foreign Languages Press, 1979), 323-339.

**Apr. 25 Aftermath of WWII and a New International Order**

- *A War to Be Won*, 554-574.
- Continue working on Paper #2

**Apr. 27 Politics of Historical Memory: The Case of the “Comfort Women”**

- Dongwoo Lee Hahm, “Urgent Matters: Redress for Surviving ‘Comfort Women’” in Margaret Stetz and Bonnie B.C. Oh eds. *Legacies of the Comfort Women of World War II* (Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2001), 128-141.
- Document: “Oral Histories of the ‘Comfort Women’” (3 pages)

**May 2 Review Session (Mandatory)**

- Bring questions that you have about anything that we have covered so far
- We will spend the class session reviewing material and discussing larger themes and connections
- **Paper #2 Due**

**Final: Date/time TBA**