

**THE FIFTEEN YEAR WAR IN ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC**

Class Meetings: Tu. & Th. 3:30-4:50, CSB 002

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Course Description

This course examines the "Fifteen Year War" (or the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific region) from a variety of critical perspectives. Two themes will especially be highlighted. First, we will consider how imperialism and colonialism of both the Euro-American and Japanese varieties were central to the War's outbreak, conduct, and "resolution." Second, we will also explore various "local" rather than simply national experiences and memories of the War. These will include the experiences and memories of marginalized groups in Japan and its colonies, "comfort women," victims of war atrocities, Japanese Americans, African Americans, and Pacific Islanders. Please note that we will attempt to discuss the readings in class every week. Therefore, you must keep up with the readings and complete the weekly assignments by the Tuesday class meetings. Furthermore, attendance at lectures is especially important because these will complement readings and provide information and points of view that will allow us to dispense with a general textbook. You will be held responsible for all films shown and are cautioned that in some cases these films will not be available for viewing outside of the set times. Therefore, you must view the films at the scheduled class times and you should take notes on the films' significances either during or immediately after the film showing.

Texts

Horne, Gerald. Race War!: White Supremacy and the Japanese Attack on the British Empire. New York: New York University Press, 2004. (hereafter, RW)

Cook, Haruko Taya and Theodore F. Japan at War: An Oral History. New York: The New Press, 1993. (hereafter, JAW)

Okada, John. No-No Boy. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1978.

Hachiya, Michihiko. Hiroshima Diary. Trans. and ed. Warner Wells, M.D. Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina Press, 1955.

Harris, Sheldon, Factories of Death: Japanese Biological Warfare, 1932-45, and the American Cover-up. Revised Edition. London: Routledge, 2001.

All reading materials not in the above books are in the course reader, which is available at Cal Copy, 3251 Holiday Ct., phone: 452-9949. The texts are available for purchase at Groundwork Books and on reserve at the library.

Requirements

NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED. NO EMAILED PAPERS ACCEPTED, UNLESS INDIVIDUALLY APPROVED BY INSTRUCTOR

1. Attendance at lectures.
2. Midterm Essays due or written out in class on Feb. 7. 40% of grade.
3. Final Essays due or written out in class on Friday, Mar. 24, 3-6 PM. 60% of grade.
4. Optional discussion sections for extra credit. You may improve your course grade by up to 5% if you participate in weekly discussion sections. However, please note that you must come to at least 7 sections

during the quarter to quality for extra credit. Also, although there will be no additional written assignments, you must demonstrate that you have done the readings by joining in the discussions.

PART I: EMPIRES IN CONFLICT

WEEK I

Jan. 10 Introduction
Jan. 12 U.S. and European Imperialism in the Asia Pacific Region
(Be sure to bring your reader!)

Reading: RW, pp. vii-xviii, 1-79, 187-210 ("Preface," "Introduction," and Chapters 1-3, & 8).

WEEK II

Jan. 17 Japanese Imperialism and the Co-Prosperity Sphere
Jan. 19 Film: "The Human Condition"

Reading: JAW, 3-68, 95-112; Chang-tai Hung, "Cartoons," in War and Popular Culture (UC Press, 1994): 93-150; "Tōjō Greets the Greater East Asia Conference," in Joyce C. Lebra, ed., Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in World War II (Oxford U. Press), 88-93.

WEEK III

Jan. 24 U.S. and Japan at War
Jan. 26 Film: A First Yank in Tokyo

Reading: JAW, 69-95, 240-57; John Dower, "Race, Language, and War in Two Cultures," and "Graphic Others/ Graphic Selves: Cartoons in War and Peace," in Japan in War & Peace (New York: New Press, 1993), 257-300; RW, 105-27 (Chpt. 5).

PART II: ETHNIC/RACIAL AND COLONIAL SUBJECTS (BETWEEN EQUALITY AND DIFFERENCE)

WEEK IV

Jan. 31 Koreans in the Japanese Empire
Midterm Exam Question(s) Distributed
Feb. 2 Okinawans in the Japanese Empire

Reading: JAW, 113-20, 192-99, 387-91, 354-72; Changsoo Lee and George DeVos, A The Colonial Experience, 1910-1945, @ in Lee and DeVos, Koreans in Japan, (UC, Press, 1981), 31-57; Matthew Allen, "Wolves at the Back Door: Remembering the Kumejima Massacres," in Hein and Selden, ed., Islands of Discontent (Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), 39-64.

WEEK V

Feb. 7 Midterm Essays Due/ or taken in Class
Feb. 9 Hawaii and the Pacific

Reading: Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Introduction," in The First Strange Place (Free Press, 1992), 15-29; Lamont Lindstrom and Geoffrey M. White, "War Stories," and "Karen L. Nero, "Time of Famine, Time of Transformation: Hell in the Pacific, Palau," in Geoffrey M. White and Lamont Lindstrom, The Pacific Theater (U of Hawaii Press, 1989), 3-36 & 117-46; RW, 159-87 (Chpt. 7).

WEEK VI

Feb. 14 Asian Americans
Feb. 16 Film & Discussion: "Looking Like the Enemy"
Discussion: No-no Boy

Reading: John Okada, No-no Boy; "DSS Form 304A."

PART III: "WAR CRIMES"

WEEK VII

Feb. 21 War and Sex
Feb. 23 Film & Discussion: "Senso Daughters"

Reading: George Hicks, "The Flesh Market," "Shanghai Regulations and their Variations," "Empire of the Sun," from The Comfort Women (Norton, 1994), 45-65, 83-96, 107-51; Hyunah Yang, "Revisiting the Issue of Korean Military Comfort Women: The Question of Truth and Positionality," in positions 5:1 (Spring 1997): 51-71; Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Hotel Street Sex," from The First Strange Place (Free Press, 1992), 95-132.

WEEK VIII

Feb. 28 Film: "Why We Dropped the Bomb"
Mar. 2 Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki
Discussion on the Bomb

Reading: JAW, 337-353; Michihiko Hachiya, Hiroshima Diary, "Foreward" - 149 required, but feel free to read the entire book!

WEEK IX

Mar. 7 Japanese Atrocities on Trial
Mar. 9 Film: TBA
Final Essay Question(s) Distributed

Reading: Sheldon Harris, Factories of Death, pages TBA.

PART IV: REMEMBERING THE WAR

WEEK X

Mar. 14 Decolonization and Unresolved Postcolonial Issues
Mar. 16 Conclusions and Further Questions

Reading: Factories of Death, pages TBA; JAW, 400-79; David Conde, "The Korean Minority in Japan," Far Eastern Survey, vol. 16, no. 4 (Feb. 26, 1947), 41-45..

FINALS WEEK

Mar. 24 Final Essays due or written out in class, Fri., 3-6.