**War in Modern East Asia**

HIST 3176 B-LEC (75242)  
Mon & Wed 12:30-1:45pm  
Fall Semester 2014  
Classroom: NAC 5/124  

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**Course Description**
The 19th and 20th centuries were a tumultuous period of wars throughout the world, and not least of all in Asia. This course will examine wars in East Asia and their impact on the societies of Japan, China, Korea, and Southeast Asia from 1800 to the present. Topics include the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95), Russo-Japanese War (1904-5), Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-45), Pacific War (1941-45), Cold War in Asia, and the historical legacies of wars in East Asia today. In addition to the diplomatic and geopolitical contexts of wars, we will explore the social and cultural history of military engagements.

**Course Format**
This course will integrate lecture and student discussion into every class session. Students will be responsible for asking and answering questions during lecture and actively discussing that day’s readings.

**Course Goals**
By the end of the semester, students will:
- Understand the major concepts, issues, and debates of wars in East Asia during the first-half of the twentieth-century.
- Demonstrate proficiency in the analysis of primary and secondary sources through note-taking assignments and a short research paper.
- Demonstrate proficiency in historical reasoning, oral presentation, and argument.

**Grading**
(1) Attendance/Participation (20%)  
(2) Weekly Note-Taking Worksheet (20%)  
(3) Map Quiz (5%)  
(4) 5-7 Page Book Review (25%)  
(5) Final Exam (30%)  

In this course, "C" work is satisfactory: it fulfills the requirements in a manner that demonstrates competency and adequate understanding of the material. "B" work is good: it shows some insight into the material and develops a clear argument. "A" work is excellent: it demonstrates originality, well-developed analyses, and skillful articulation of your thoughts.
Requirements

(1) Attendance/Participation (20%): Students are expected to attend class ON TIME having completed the readings and ready with comments and questions to share with each other. Participation will be graded not solely on the quantity but also the quality of comments.

Lateness is distracting and arriving more than 10 minutes late will be counted as an absence. Please notify me in advance if you know that you will be absent from a class. Students with three unexcused absences in a semester will automatically be marked down 1/3 on their final grade (e.g. B to B-). Students who miss five classes will fail.

For any absence, you may submit a short essay (2 pages double-spaced) analyzing the readings you missed for that day in order to receive participation points. This must be submitted in hard copy the following class for you to receive credit.

(2) Weekly Note-Taking Worksheet (20%): The foundation of intellectual inquiry is based on reading and note-taking. The ability to concisely summarize and evaluate content is a difficult skill to master, and practicing it will help improve the quality of your work in this course.

Each week students will email me a 1-page note-taking worksheet for one of the discussion texts (marked with a *) by Tuesday midnight. It should include:

(i) A concise summary of the contents and the author’s argument(s).
(ii) The author’s methodological approach and use of sources.
(iii) An explanation of the strengths and weaknesses of the reading.
(iv) Any unresolved questions you have about the reading.

For primary sources (e.g., memoirs, oral histories), please also note: the historical context and genre of the text; the values, judgments, and biases of the author.

Worksheets will be graded on a "check-plus"/"check"/"check-minus" system (equivalent to the grades of A/B/C). Late assignments will automatically be marked down a full grade (e.g., from "check" to "check-minus").

(3) Map Quiz (5%) (Due 9/15): In Week 3 students will be given a blank map of Asia where they will have to name each country and its major cities.

(4) 5-7 Page Book Review (25%) (Due 11/5): Students will choose a book from a suggested list distributed in class. Your review will briefly summarize the work (no more than one page). The majority of the review should consist of your critical analysis of the work. Discuss the author’s main arguments, explain the sources the author used, evaluate the effectiveness of the methodology employed, identify the strengths and weaknesses, and comment on the author’s contribution to the larger historiographical debates we have studied over the course of the semester.
The paper should be 5-7 double-spaced pages in 12pt font. Use Chicago Manual-style for footnote citations. ALL WRITTEN WORK MUST BE ORIGINAL, AND THE SOURCES OF ALL BORROWED IDEAS AND QUOTATIONS MUST BE CITED IN YOUR NOTES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY. I will not read rough drafts. For help with your rough drafts, please avail yourself of the CCNY Writing Center, where writing specialists are available to give you pointers on your style and structure.

Papers are due in class in hard copy on the date listed. Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade per day late (e.g., 1 day from A- to B+; 2 days from A- to B). Papers more than 1 week late will automatically receive an 'F.'

(5) Final Exam (30%): The final exam will consist of identifications and short essays based on material covered in the readings and class discussions/lectures.

Two weeks before the final exam, I will distribute a list of 20-25 major events, figures, and concepts, as well as a list of 5 short essay questions. On the day of the exam, students will be asked to define 10 of 12 items and to write 2 out of 3 essays from the original list.

Failure to take the final exam will result in an automatic "F." There will be NO make-up exams.

OUR CONTRACT

Me

I will provide an interactive classroom environment in which we discuss our ideas and challenge one another to think more deeply about the material in this course—each class should be a thought-provoking and rewarding experience for all of us. I will also explain my expectations for discussions and assignments, follow the rubric explained above when assigning grades, and regularly inform you about your progress in the course.

You

If you feel that you cannot fulfill the requirements of this syllabus for any reason, please contact me in advance. All written assignments must be submitted on time and be your own work. Please note that at City College plagiarism is an act of academic misappropriation subject to the review and ruling of a college-wide disciplinary committee. For definitions and examples, see the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity: (http://www.ccny.cuny.edu/ctl/Plagiarism.htm#Plagiarism Policies)

Classroom Etiquette

There will be no use of cell phones or any other electronics (laptops, ipads) in class.
Readings
All readings will be in the course packet. Other materials will be distributed by email and googledrive. No books are required for purchase.

WEEK 1: Introduction to the Course

9/3 (Wed)

WEEK 2: The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-5)

9/8 (Mon)

9/10 (Wed)

WEEK 3: The Russo-Japanese War (1904-5)

9/15 (Mon)

• Map Quiz in class

9/17 (Wed)

WEEK 4: Militarism and Japanese Youth (1910s-30s)

9/22 (Mon)
9/24 (Wed): NO CLASS

WEEK 5: The Second Sino-Japanese War (1931-45)

9/29 (Mon)

10/1 (Wed)

WEEK 6: The Nanjing Massacre (1937)

10/6 (Mon)
• **Film in class:** Nanjing—Memory and Oblivion (2006)

10/8 (Wed)
• **Film in class:** Nanjing—Memory and Oblivion (2006)

WEEK 7: The Pacific War (1941-45)

10/13 (Mon): No Class

10/15 (Wed)
• **Film in class:** Know Your Enemy, Japan (1945)

WEEK 8: The Pacific War (II)

10/20 (Mon)
• **Film in class:** Letters from Iwo Jima (2006)

10/22 (Wed)
WEEK 9: Occupying Southeast Asia (1942-45)

10/27 (Mon)
• Primary documents on Japan’s “Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” (1941-2).

10/29 (Wed)

WEEK 10: Wartime Mobilization of Korean and Taiwanese Youth

11/3 (Mon)

11/5 (Wed)
• Film in class: Shonenko (2006)

6-8 Page Paper Due (11/5)

WEEK 11: Kamikaze and the End of World War II

11/10 (Mon)
• Cook and Cook, Japan At War: An Oral History: 305-36.
• Film in class: Wings of Defeat (2007)

11/12 (Wed)
• Aniya Masaaki, "Compulsory Mass Suicide, the Battle of Okinawa, and Japan’s Textbook Controversy" (2007), in The Politics of Memory in Japan and East Asia: 494-507.
• Cook and Cook, Japan At War: 354-72.
• Suggested: Ishihara Masaie, "Memories of War and Okinawa," in Perilous

WEEK 12: The Atomic Bomb

11/17 (Mon)
• Cook and Cook, Japan At War: 382-99.
• Film in class: Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima (1986)

11/19 (Wed)

WEEK 13: The Cold War in Asia

11/24 (Mon)

11/26 (W)

WEEK 14: Negotiating Postwar Memories

12/1 (Mon)

12/3 (Wed)
WEEK 15: Postwar Controversies and Neo-Nationalism

12/8 (Mon)
• Video in class: "South Koreans Hold Anti-Japan Rally" (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KAFzikIu9wY).

12/10 (Wed)
• Rumi Sakamoto, "'Will you go to war? Or will you stop being Japanese?' Nationalism and History in Kobayashi Yoshinori's Sensōron" (2008), in War in Japanese Popular Culture: 32-51.

WEEK 16: Review and Final Exam

12/15 (Mon) Review
• Final Exam