

HIST 96.25 World War II in the Pacific, 1931-1945

Instructor Jennifer Miller

This course examines the origins, nature, and consequences of World War II in the Pacific. Moving beyond the common American focus on the war as a U.S.-Japanese conflict, it explores the different nations, political movements, ideologies, and empires that clashed across Asia-Pacific from 1931 to 1945. Topics covered include Japanese, American, and European imperialism; the relationship between the Chinese Civil War, the second Sino-Japanese War, and the trans-Pacific War; invasion and occupation in Southeast Asia; the relationship between race, war, and empire; key historiographical debates such as the dropping of the atomic bomb; and the legacies of these conflicts for international law, empire, and global politics. This course culminates with the writing of a 20 – 25 page research paper that examines some aspect of the Pacific Wars in an international context.

This course takes a broad, international approach to these conflicts. Helpful preparatory courses therefore include classes in the United States and the World (the History 25 sequence, especially HIST 25.2), courses on World War I (HIST 62), World War II (HIST 53), and the Vietnam Wars (HIST 26), courses in Northeast, Southeast and South Asian history, and courses on imperialism and colonialism in Asia (especially HIST 5.9 and HIST 77).

Distributive and/or World Culture

WCult:W

Offered

17S: 2A. 18S:: 10A

Department-Specific Course Categories

Major Dist: INTER.

DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
Department of History

HIST 96.25: World War II in the Pacific, 1931 - 1945

Professor Jennifer M. Miller
Fall 2015

Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00 – 11:50 (X hour Wednesday 3:00 – 3:50).

Class Location: Carson 214

Office Hours: 410 Carson Hall, Thursday 1 – 3 and by appointment

Contact: Jennifer.M.Miller@dartmouth.edu/(603) 646 - 2523

Course Description

This course will explore the origins, nature, and consequences of World War II in the Pacific. Moving beyond the common American focus on the war as a U.S.-Japanese conflict, we will explore the different nations, political movements, ideologies, and empires that clashed across Asia-Pacific from 1931 to 1945. First, we will discuss the role of imperialism. What was the nature of Japanese, American, and European imperialism in this region? How did imperial ideologies, political structures, and consequences change during the war? Second, we will explore the intersections between imperialism and local political movements such as civil war in China, anti-colonial activism in Southeast Asia, and racial politics in Japan and the United States. Finally, we will discuss the long legacies of these many conflicts: how did these wars shape the rise of international tribunals, decolonization, and global politics? What were their consequences for the rest of the 20th century and the international system today?

Throughout the term, we will also think about how to write international history. What kinds of questions and conclusions does an international lens highlight? What questions and conclusions does it obscure? How should we understand the relationship between domestic and international events, between civil and international conflicts? How have different historians approached these questions? Our readings and discussions throughout the term will provide an opportunity for us to examine the advantages, drawbacks, difficulties, and successes of placing these conflicts in an explicitly international perspective. This will culminate in your research paper, which must explore some aspect of the Asia-Pacific wars through an international lens.

Course Goals and Requirements:

This seminar aims to develop three key skills:

1. The ability to critically read and interpret primary and secondary sources. This includes reading for a historical argument, and placing these arguments in conversation with other primary and secondary texts.
2. The ability to effectively develop and express ideas, opinions, and arguments (as informed by historical evidence), both orally and in writing.

3. The ability to conduct independent research. This includes developing a research question, utilizing both primary and secondary sources, and writing an argument-driven research paper.

In order to develop all of these skills, this course includes the following requirements:

1. Attendance and participation (30%): This is a discussion-based seminar course. Class participation therefore comprises a substantial portion of your grade. Attendance at every session is required, and I expect you to come prepared to discuss the readings and to **actively** engage with your fellow students. **Any unexcused absence will result in a 1/3 letter reduction of your participation grade (for example, A- to B+)**. Students who miss more than **two** classes will receive a **zero** for participation (30% of your final grade).

In order to prepare for discussion, you are required to post two questions, thoughts, or comments about the assigned readings prior to each class meeting. You will make these postings on the course discussion page on canvas. They should be informal observations and questions to help spark discussion, and they will be part of your overall participation grade. These postings are due at 11 PM on the night before each class.

2. Research paper (50%): As the culmination of this seminar, you will prepare a research-based seminar paper (20-25 pages, double-spaced) on some aspect of World War II in the Pacific. You will choose a topic of interest to you in consultation with Professor Miller. This paper must include both primary and secondary sources, and source availability should be a consideration in picking your topic. The final version of your paper is due **Tuesday, November 17th by 4 PM**, which is the last day of fall classes.

In order to facilitate to process of defining a topic, identifying relevant sources, and composing your research paper, there are four preliminary requirements:

- A. You must schedule a required meeting with Prof. Miller to discuss ideas and potential topics. This meeting must take place during week three of the term: **September 29th – October 2nd**.
- B. After your meeting with Prof. Miller, you must draft a written topic description (1.5 – 2 pages) that articulates your main research question and your approach to answering this question. You should attach a list of potential primary and secondary sources. In considering topics and sources, be sure to consult the library guide for this course:
<http://researchguides.dartmouth.edu/c.php?g=343769&p=2314975>
- C. After meeting with Prof. Miller and drafting your description, you must schedule a required meeting with Fran Oscadal (Francis.X.Oscadal@Dartmouth.edu), Dartmouth's history librarian, to discuss available sources for your paper. **This meeting must take place by Friday October 9th** (the end of week four). You must send your written topic description to both Fran Oscadal and Professor Miller two days in advance of this meeting.

- D. You must submit a revised written topic description (1.5 – 2 pages) that articulates your main research question and your approach to answering this question. You must also attach an annotated bibliography (at least three primary sources and three secondary sources) based on your meeting with Fran Oscadal. This is due **Monday, October 12th at 7 PM**. This description will count as 5% of your final grade.
3. Peer Review (20%): In early October, Prof. Miller will divide the class into three groups. Each of these groups will meet twice with Prof. Miller, once during the 7th week of class (October 27th – 29th) and once during the 9th week (November 10th – 12th).
- A. Prior to the first meeting (during week 7), each student will send the other group members an updated copy of their paper proposal, along with one primary source that is central to their paper. These materials are due via email by **Sunday, October 25th at 7 PM**. When the group meets with Prof. Miller, the students will discuss each paper proposal and source. Each author will answer questions about his/her proposal, and will also have the opportunity to ask the group for advice/accept suggestions about argument, organization, sources, content etc.
- B. The second meeting of each small group (during week 9) will be a peer review session. Prior to this small group meeting, each student will submit a preliminary paper draft to both Prof. Miller and other students. This draft is due via email by **Saturday, November 7th at 7 PM**. This draft does not need to be highly polished but it should be as complete as possible. In particular, it should contain a clear statement of the paper's argument and use both primary and secondary sources to begin developing this argument.

Before meeting with their group, each student will carefully and thoughtfully review the drafts submitted by their group members and write a 1 – 2 pages of comments detailing constructive suggestions for improvements. These comments should be organized in three sections: 1. Content, evidence, and argument; 2. Organization and structure; 3. Style. These suggestions are to be submitted in hard copy to Prof. Miller's office (Carson 410) by **Monday, November 9th by 4 PM**.

Finally, you should make suggestions on style, typos, syntax, word choice, content etc. directly on a printed copy of the paper. Staple a copy of your written comments (with your name on them) to the marked-up draft and bring it to the peer review session to give to the original author. At the peer review session, we will spend about 20 minutes discussing each paper.

Your grade for this portion of the course is based on the comments that you provide for others, not on your own draft. However, **failure to produce a substantial draft for peer review will result in a 2/3-letter reduction of your final course grade (for example, from A- to B).**

Course Readings:

You are expected to purchase the following books for this course:

Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia, 1941 – 1945*. Cambridge, MA: the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005.

Akira Iriye, *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin, 1999.

Takashi Fujitani, *Race For Empire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans During World War II*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan*. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005.

Michael H. Hunt and Stephen I. Levine, *Arc of Empire: America's Wars in Asia from the Philippines to Vietnam*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012.

Barak Kushner, *Men to Devils, Devils to Men: Japanese War Crimes and Chinese Justice*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015.

S.C.M. Paine, *The Wars for Asia, 1911 – 1949*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

These books, along with all additional readings are available, via library reserve. Some course readings will also be posted on Canvas.

Course Policies

Technology Policy:

Since this is a discussion-based class, laptops are **not** allowed in class. You are expected to bring the materials to class in hard copy. Remember that all books are available via library reserve and borrow direct.

Note on late submissions:

All assignments must be submitted in time. **Any** late submission will penalize your participation grade by two-third letter grade (for example, from A- to B), and will reduce your final grade. If you know you will need an extension, you must contact Professor Miller well in advance. **I will not approve last minute extensions.**

Accommodation:

If you require academic adjustments or accommodations during the term, you are strongly

encouraged to convey those needs to me as soon as possible. Early communication is especially important in cases in which you will miss class due to athletic events or religious holidays; it is also important in cases involving disabilities, which may require in-class or other accommodations. All communications will remain confidential, although it may be necessary to consult with the Student Disabilities Coordinator in some cases involving documented disabilities.

Honor Code:

All students should read the Dartmouth Academic Honor Principle, which can be found here: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~uja/honor/>

As per the Honor Principle, all work submitted for this course must be your own independent work, work that you have completed solely for this course. You may not collaborate or work together on papers or during course exams. You may not pass other peoples' work or ideas as your own – that is, you may not submit papers that are cut and pasted, copied, or paraphrased from an outside source, whether that source is another student, an internet source, or another text. You may not submit work that you have completed for another course.

When completing writing assignments, you must properly document each and every outside source from which you have obtained information or ideas (there is a handout about proper citation format posted on Canvas). This includes direct quotations, statistics, maps and images, and other author's ideas rewritten in your own words (paraphrasing). For more information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, consult: <http://writing-speech.dartmouth.edu/learning/materials/sources-and-citations-dartmouth>

Course Schedule

[CV] = reading on Canvas

Week 1: How should we understand the Pacific War?

Sept 17 (Th) Introduction

Week 2: Imperial Histories

Sept. 22 (Tu) Japanese Empire

Visit from Fran Oscadal

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998),
3 – 20, 55 – 68, 115 – 180, 241 – 282.

Ishihara Kanji, "A Plan to Occupy Manchuria," 1931 [CV]

Sept. 24 (Th) American and British Empire

Michael H. Hunt and Stephen I. Levine, *Arc of Empire: America's Wars in Asia from the*

Philippines to Vietnam (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2012), 1 – 119.

Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Armies: the Fall of British Asia, 1941 – 1945* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University press, 2005), xxix – 70.

Week 3: Pacific War or Pacific Wars?

You must meet with Professor Miller to discuss potential paper topics this week. Sign up for a meeting slot via the scheduler function in Canvas.

Sept. 29 (Tu) The Second Sino-Japanese War

S.C.M. Paine, *The Wars for Asia, 1911 – 1949* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 3 – 170.

Sept. 30 (W) XHOUR Exploring the Pacific War at Rauner Library

Oct. 1 (Th) Global War

S.C.M. Paine, *The Wars for Asia, 1911 – 1949* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 171 – 220.

Akira Iriye, *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 1999), 1 – 13, 113 – 241, along with assigned document.

Week 4: Regional War

You must meet with Fran Oscadal to discuss paper sources this week. Prior to your meeting, you must send both Professor Miller and Fran Oscadal a draft of your paper proposal.

Oct. 6 (Tu.) Invasion and Occupation

Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia, 1941 – 1945* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University press, 2005), 71 – 307.

Arita Hachiro, “The International Situation and Japan’s Position,” 1940 [CV]

Oct. 8 (Th.) Imperial Transformation

Eric T. Jennings, *Vichy in the Tropics: Petain’s National Revolution in Madagascar, Guadeloupe, and Indochina, 1940 – 1944* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001), 1 – 31, 130 – 198, 225 – 231. [CV]

Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia, 1941 – 1945* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University press, 2005), 307 – 422.

Week 5: Total War

Paper proposal and annotated bibliography due via canvas on **Monday, October 12th by 7 PM.**

Oct. 13 (Tu) Race and the Pacific War

Takashi Fujitani, *Race For Empire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans During World War II* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011), 1 – 124.
John W. Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1986), 3 – 14, 33 – 76. [CV]

Oct. 15 (Th) Debating the Atomic Bomb

Wilson Miscamble, *From Roosevelt to Truman: Potsdam, Hiroshima and the Cold War* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007), 218 – 261. [CV]
Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman, and the Surrender of Japan* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005), 130 – 251.
Michael Kort, “Key Questions and Interpretations,” In *The Columbia Guide to Hiroshima and the Bomb* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2007), 79 – 116. [CV]

Week 6: Legacies

Oct. 20 (Tu) Trials

Barak Kushner, *Men to Devils, Devils to Men: Japanese War Crimes and Chinese Justice* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015), 1 – 184.
John Dower, “Victor’s Justice, Loser’s Justice,” in *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: WW Norton, 1999), 443 – 484. [CV]

Oct. 22 (Th) Revolution

S.C.M. Paine, *The Wars for Asia, 1911 – 1949* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), 221 – end.
Rana Mitter, “Nationalism, Decolonization, Geopolitics and the Asian Postwar,” in *The Cambridge History of the Second World War, Volume 3*, ed. Michael Geyer and Adam Tooze (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 599 – 622. [CV]
Christopher Bayly and Tim Harper, *Forgotten Armies: the Fall of British Asia, 1941 – 1945* (Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University press, 2005), 423 – 465.

Week 7: Peer Review I

Final paper proposal and primary source due via email on **Sunday, October 25th by 7 PM.** You should email this assignment to Professor Miller and your group members.

Oct. 27 (Tu) Topic and Primary Source Discussion Group A

Oct. 28 (W) (Xhour) Topic and Primary Source Discussion Group B

Oct. 29 (Th) Topic and Primary Source Discussion Group C

Week 8: Writing Week

This week is time to work on your research papers. You must submit your draft via email to Prof. Miller and your peer review group by **Saturday, November 7th at 7 PM.**

Week 9: Peer Review II

Written comments on your group members' draft are due at Professor Miller's office (Carson 407) **Monday, November 9th by 4 PM.**

Remember to also make comments directly on the drafts. Staple a copy of your comments to the marked-up draft and bring it to your peer review meeting to return to the author.

Nov 10 (Tu) Peer Review Group A

Nov 11 (W) (Extended x-hour) Peer Review Group B

Nov 12 (Th) Peer Review Group C

Final Paper due Tuesday, November 17th in Professor Miller's office by 4 PM. You must submit this paper in hard copy.