

## THE ASIA PACIFIC WAR

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### Course Description and Objectives

This course examines the ASIA PACIFIC WAR (or the Second World War in the Asia-Pacific) 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 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 North Americans, African Americans, and Pacific Islanders. The main purpose of the course is to introduce students to key issues in the study of the Second World War in the Asia Pacific region while reconsidering conventional or mainstream views of the War.

**Recommended preparation:** any course in 20th-century history and a capacity for critical thinking

### Books

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*)

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

Wu Zhuoliu. *The Fig Tree: Memoires of a Taiwanese Patriot*. Trans. Duncan Hunter. Authorhouse edition. 2002.

Yoshida, Takashi. *The Making of the "Rape of Nanjing."* Oxford: Oxford U. Press, 2006. (available online through Robarts Library:

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195180961.001.0001/acprof-9780195180961>

## PART I: EMPIRES AT WAR

**Week 1:** Introduction

**Week 2:** "Good War" or "War of Empires"

Reading: Eric Hobsbawm, "The Age of Empire," in *The Age of Empire* (Pantheon, 1987), 56-83; "To be of 'Pure European Descent'" and "Asians versus White Supremacy," in *RW*, p.17-42 and 187-219. (84pgs) [if the Horne book is late in arriving at the bookstore the first assignments will be available on Blackboard]

Viewing: In addition, watch the following two short videos online prior to class.

*Alert in the East* (British Movietone News, 1941)

<http://www.colonialfilm.org.uk/node/2467>

*Nippon News*, No. 118, September 8, 1942 (NHK International Inc., 1942)

<http://search.alexanderstreet.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/world-history/view/work/1927246> (note translation in English below video)

4 Q (1 on Hobsbawm, 1 on Horne, 1 for each of the newsreels)

**Week 3:** From Imperial Collaboration to Conflict

Reading: "Tojo Meets the Greater East Asia Conference," in Joyce C. Lebra, ed., *Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere in WWII* (Oxford U. Press, 1975), 88-93; "The Atlantic Charter"; *JAW*, 3-113. (115pgs)

In addition, view the following video prior to class online:

Viewing: *In the Name of the Emperor*, dir., Christine Choy (Filmmakers Library, 1997).

<http://search.alexanderstreet.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/whiv/view/work/1784633>

4Q (3 readings, 1 documentary)

#### **Week 4: Japan, the US, and the British Commonwealth at War**

Reading: Statues of Canada, War Measures Act, George V, ch. 2 (p.5-8); ; N. F. Dreisziger, "The Rise of the Bureaucracy for Multiculturalism: The Origins of the Nationalities Branch, 1939-1941," in Norman Hillmer, et. al., ed., *On Guard for Thee: War, Ethnicity, and the Canadian State, 1939-1945* (Canadian Committee for the History of the Second World War, 1988), 1-29. ; Daniel Byers, "Mobilising Canada: The National Resources Mobilization Act, the Department of National Defence, and Compulsory Military Service in Canada, 1940-1945," *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association*, vol. 7 (1996):

175-203. Timothy Wilford, *Canada's Road to the Pacific War* (UBC Press), 170-94. (83 pgs) 4 Q

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

#### **Week 5: Okinawans and Japan's Indigenous Peoples**

Reading: *JAW*, 354-72 (Okinawans); 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; Tomiyama Ichiro, "'Spy': Mobilization and Identity in Wartime Okinawa," in Umesao Tadao, T. Fujitani, and Kurimoto Eisei, ed. *Japanese Civilization in the Modern World: Vol. XVI. Nation-State and Empire* (Osaka:

National Museum of Ethnology, 2000): 121-32; David L. Howell, "Making "Useful Citizens" of Ainu Subjects in Early Twentieth-Century Japan," *JAS* 63:1 (Feb. 2004): 5-29. (78pgs) 4Q

#### **Week 6: Koreans and Taiwanese**

Reading: *JAW*, 113-20(Koreans), 192-99 (Koreans), 387-91 (Koreans); Wu Zhuoliu. *The Fig Tree: Memoires of a Taiwanese Patriot* (Authorhouse, 2002), 1-166 [or chapters 1-10 in any edition] (184pgs) 2 Q (one on *JAW* selections, one on Wu)

#### **Week 7: Hawai'i and Pacific Islanders at War**

Reading: *RW*, 159-87 (on new Zealand, Australia) ; Beth Bailey and David Farber, "Introduction," from *The First Strange Place* (Free Press, 1992), 15-29; Lamont Lindstrom and Geoffrey M. White, "War Stories," in Geoffrey M. White and Lamont Lindstrom, *The Pacific Theater* (U of Hawaii Press, 1989), 3-36. Keith Camacho, "World War II in the Mariana Islands," in *Cultures of Commemoration* (U of Hawaii Press, 2011), 39-58. (96pgs) 4Q

**Students are advised to begin reading *No-No Boy* although no question on this book is required till next week**

#### **Week 8: Internment of Japanese in North America**

Reading: *No-No Boy* (U of Washington Press, 1978), iii-251; "World War II: Internment of Japanese Americans," *The Atlantic* (Aug. 21, 2011): access electronically at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/infocus/2011/08/world-war-ii-internment-of-japanese->

### PART III: "WAR CRIMES" & WAR MEMORIES

#### Week 9: War and Sex

Film & Discussion: "Senso Daughters" (also available in Media Commons and hopefully by streaming: <https://media.library.utoronto.ca/uoft/play.php?4TIdBihFs5L0&id=20582> )

Reading: C. Sarah Soh, "Japan's Military Comfort System as History" and "Public Sex and the State," in *The Comfort Women* (Chicago U. Press, 2008), 107-142 & 197-225; Yuki Tanaka, "Japanese Comfort Women for the Allied Forces," from *Japan's Comfort Women* (Routledge, 2002), 133-66. (96pgs)  
2 Q

#### Week 10: Chongqing, Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki

Film: "Why We Dropped the Bomb" (also available in Media Commons)

Reading: JAW, 337-353; Tetsuo Maeda, "Strategic Bombing of Chongqing by Imperial Japanese Army and Naval Forces," in Yuki Tanaka and Marilyn B. Young, ed., *Bombing Civilians* (New Press, 2009), 135-153; Takashi Yoshida, *The Making of the "Rape of Nanking,"*

introduction & chaps. 1-3 (p.3-42) (Yoshida available electronically at:

<http://www.oxfordscholarship.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/view/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780195180961.001.0001/acprof-9780195180961>) (73 pgs) 3 Q

#### Week 11: Japanese Atrocities on Trial?

Reading: Takashi Yoshida, *The Making of the "Rape of Nanking,"* chaps. 4-6 and 10-12 (p.43-77 & 129-83); Lisa Yoneyama, "For Transformative Knowledge and Postnationalist Public Spheres," in T. Fujitani, et. al., ed., *Perilous Memories: The Asia-Pacific War(s)*, 323-46 (111 pgs) 2 Q

#### Week 12: Unresolved Postcolonial Issues and Further Questions

Reading: *RW*, 279-327; Wu, *The Fig Tree*, 167-263 (144 pgs)