THE FIFTEEN YEAR WAR IN ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

Class Meetings: MW, 5-6:20PM, Center 214
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Reader: Michael Elgan (melgan@ucsd.edu)

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 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 Monday class meetings. Individuals may be called upon at random and asked for their opinions on the readings and or lectures. 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.

Books

All assigned readings not in the above books are available on electronic reserve at the library. The required books are available for purchase at Groundwork Books and several copies are also on reserve at the library.

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

1. Attendance at lectures. Be sure to turn off all mobile phones and use computers only for note taking. Students found using computers for any other purpose (such as emailing, playing games, etc.) will have their final grades deducted by 5%. Once the class begins students should stop chatting and engaging in any other kind of disruptive or distracting behavior. When you attend lectures you are expected to stay for the entire period. Any student found leaving early will have his/her final grade deducted by 3% for each instance. In the event that a student feels physically unable to remain in the class, that student must receive approval from the instructor, TA or Reader to leave the classroom. In the case of a medical emergency, do not hesitate to inform
the instructor of your condition directly or through the TA, Reader, or a fellow student so that we can assist you as quickly as possible. If you have a chronic medical condition that may require you to occasionally or regularly leave the classroom, you should inform the instructor of this condition so that accommodations can be made. In no case should you endanger your health to follow these rules. However, those breaking the rules without a legitimate excuse will be treated severely with regard to grade deductions.

2. Midterm Essays due or written out in class on Feb. 1. 40% of grade.
3. Final Essays due or written out in class on Tu., March 18, 60% of grade.
4. Optional discussion sections for extra credit. 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. You may improve your course grade by up to 5% if you participate in weekly discussion sections, but the amount of extra credit will be determined by the degree of your participation.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such. In some cases students found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the assignment and the class. As the History Department’s statement on plagiarism explains, the “most obvious form of plagiarism is the verbatim copying of words, sentences, paragraphs or entire sections or chapter without quotation and proper attribution… You must use quotation marks even if you only borrow several words in sequence from a source.” Although this course encourages collaborative learning through discussion and debate, it is also improper for students to copy from one another and to “submit virtually identical assignments.” All students should read the History Department’s statement on plagiarism: [http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm](http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm) If you are unclear about any aspect of the instructor’s plagiarism policy and/or the Department’s statement on plagiarism, ask for clarification from your T.A. or the instructor before completing your assignments.

**Lecture Outlines**

Beginning on Jan. 6, the outline for the day’s lecture will normally be sent to students via email by 6AM. However, students should note that the actual lectures will cover much more than shows up in the outlines and that you will be responsible for everything covered in class. Conversely, spontaneous discussions may preclude coverage of some less important items listed on the outlines. The bottom line is: you must come to lecture in order to keep up with the class.

**PART I: EMPIRES IN CONFLICT**

**WEEK I**

Jan. 4  Introduction
Jan. 6  U.S. and European Imperialism in the Asia Pacific Region


**WEEK II**

Jan. 11  Japanese Imperialism
Jan. 13  U.S., Japan, and the Co-Prosperity Sphere


**WEEK III**

–2–
Jan. 18        MLK, Jr. Holiday
Jan. 20        Film: “First Yank into Tokyo”  FVLV6525-1

Reading:  

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

**WEEK IV**

Jan. 25        Koreans in the Japanese Empire
Jan. 27        Okinawans in the Japanese Empire

Reading:  

**WEEK V**

Feb. 1         Midterm Essays Due/ or taken in Class
Feb. 3         The Pacific

Start reading John Okada, No-no Boy.

**WEEK VI**

Feb. 8         Asian Americans
Feb. 10        Film & Discussion: "Conscience and the Constitution" FVLV5947-1  
Discussion: No-no Boy

Reading: John Okada, No-no Boy.

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

**WEEK VII**

Feb. 15        War and Sex
Feb. 17        Film & Discussion: "Senso Daughters" (FVLV1275-1)

Reading:  
WEEK VIII
Feb. 22 Chongqing, Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki
Feb. 24 Film: "Why We Dropped the Bomb" (WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE ON RESERVE)


WEEK IX
Mar. 1 Japanese Atrocities on Trial
Mar. 3 Film: Rashomon (FVLDV 0801-1)
Final Essay Question(s) Distributed


WEEK X
Mar. 8 Decolonization and Unresolved Postcolonial Issues
Mar. 10 Conclusions and Further Questions

Reading: Takashi Yoshida, The Making of the “Rape of Nanking,” 81-183.

FINALS WEEK
Mar. 18 Final Essays due or written out in class, Tu, 11:30AM -2:30