HISTORY 3617G
World War, Empire, and Nation in the Asia-Pacific
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Wednesdays 9:30 AM-12:30 PM
Course delivery in-person

Instructor: Dr. Carl Young
Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays 1:00-2:00 PM
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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic
The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered asynchronously (eg., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Course Description:
An investigation of the background and consequences of the First and Second World Wars in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on Asian as well as outside actors. It will also deal with political, economic, cultural, and social aspects of this period and how these affected imperialism, nationalism, conflict, and diplomacy.

Prerequisite(s):
1.0 History course at the 2200 level or above.

Unless you have either the prerequisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Antirequisite(s):
The former 3611E.

Course Syllabus:
The region that we know as the Asia-Pacific or Pacific Asia encompasses the regions most commonly known as East Asia (modern China, Japan, and Korea) and Southeast Asia (modern Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Burma, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, East Timor, and the Philippines). The region houses a high proportion of the world’s population and has long had a large economic and political importance. At present, the
Asia-Pacific is gaining increased economic and political prominence because of its industrial development and large and powerful states.

The aim of this course is to investigate historical developments within the international system in the Asia-Pacific and the region’s interactions with the wider world, mainly concentrating on the background and consequences of World War I and World War II in the Asia-Pacific region. The course will be focussed on Asian actors during this period, although it will also deal with the important involvement of outside countries. It will also deal with political, economic, cultural and social aspects of this period and how these affected conflict and diplomacy. It will begin with the effects of imperialism, political change, and economic development on the region before World War I and how this contributed to the setting of the First World War in the Asia-Pacific. Although the Asia-Pacific front of World War I did not last very long, it did have important consequences on the region and the subsequent peace settlement also reverberated in the Asia-Pacific. The course will also deal with the interwar period and how the growth of nationalism, political and economic instability, and Japan’s renewed push for imperial conquest provided the setting for the Pacific theatre in World War II. The course will conclude with the Asia-Pacific front of World War II up to 1945 and the ongoing legacies of this period on the region.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Provide accurate information about the processes, people, and events behind the developments and processes of the history of international relations in the Asia-Pacific in the first half of the twentieth century. These will include transitions in the regional systems of international relations, imperialism, nationalism, and interactions with other regions.
- Describe the importance of regional developments in relation to wider global trends
- Analyze and discuss secondary and primary sources in dealing with a variety of issues and approaches to the history of international relations in the Asia-Pacific
- Synthesise primary and secondary sources to produce a research paper

Course Materials:
Selected readings available on the course OWL website.

Methods of Evaluation:

Term Paper (approximately 10-15 pages) 30%

Final Exam 25%

2 Article/Document analyses (15% each: 3-6 pages) 30%

Discussion Participation and Response papers 15%

100%
The term paper will be a research paper on a topic of your choice in the history of international relations in the Asia-Pacific in the 19th century. Suggested topics will be handed out early in the beginning of the semester. The suggested length of the papers will be approximately 10-15 pages. The paper will be due on March 15.

The final exam will take place in the April final exam period. It will be a 3-hour exam composed of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

The two article analyses will be based around the readings for each class. During the semester, students will choose any 2 of the articles indicated with a "**" on the reading list and write a 3-6 page paper each on the articles. These papers are due on the day of the relevant seminar in which the particular reading is assigned. This assignment will not normally be accepted late. The last chance to hand in a 1st article analysis, for articles between Jan. 18 and Feb. 15, is Feb. 15. The last chance to hand in a 2nd article analysis, for articles between March 1 and April 5, is April 5. This assignment is more than merely a summary. The main purpose of the paper is to bring forth the main issues of the article or series of documents, discuss how the author(s) bring forth their point of view, and also analyze the effectiveness of the readings in conveying information and opinion, as well as their contribution to the topic under discussion in the particular seminar.

Discussion and reflections on the readings are an important part of the course and will be worth 10% of the total mark. The class will be divided into 2 tutorial groups and these will meet on alternate weeks in the last hour of the class. For the weeks in which one’s group’s tutorial is not meeting, students will be required to write up a short 1-2 page informal response paper based on the readings of the week detailing their thoughts and reflections on the readings. This does not require formal referencing and will be handed in on OWL for the relevant Wednesday class by midnight and marked on-line. Both discussion participation and the response papers will be marked on a scale of 1 to 5 for each class and at the end of the semester, the marks will be added together to give an overall participation mark.

If you should have any questions pertaining to the structure or content of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me during my office hours, or by phone or e-mail to make an appointment.

Lateness and Absence Policy

The term papers will be accepted late. However, there will be a penalty of 2% a day that will be applied for every day the assignments are late, including weekends and holidays. In case of family emergency or illness, penalties can be removed from assignments by undergoing the process laid out in the next paragraph relating to academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds. The article/document analyses will normally not be accepted late. If you have missed class, try and get notes from another member of the class.

Students are reminded that academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances only be granted if supported by a University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate. This form can be accessed at the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student’s home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on this policy can be found at the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf
If you do hand in your assignment late, please hand it in to the wooden drop-off box outside the History Department office at Lawson Hall. The staff will pick up the assignment and stamp it with a date and time and put it in my mailbox. This provides greater security and clarity for the handing in of the assignment. Please avoid shoving the paper under my office door if at all possible, because it could get lost.

**Academic Dishonesty**

It is expected that proper footnoting and referencing will be used for all the papers of this course. Plagiarism is a serious offence and can bring forth severe academic penalties. Please refer to the University calendar and to the department website for more details. More detailed information is provided at the end of this course outline.

**Course Schedule and Readings:**
(Readings with a ‘**’ are eligible for the article analysis assignments)

**Jan. 11—Introduction**

**Jan. 18—The Setting: The Asia-Pacific in the Early 20th Century**


Nicholas Tarling (ed.), *The Cambridge History of Southeast Asia (Vol. 2)* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1992), p. 79-130


*Group 1 meets for discussion; Group 2 hands in response papers*

**Jan. 25—World War I in the Asia-Pacific**


*Group 2 meets for discussion; Group 1 hands in response papers*

**Feb. 1—An Uneasy Peace: The Consequences of World War I on the Asia-Pacific**


*Group 1 meets for discussion; Group 2 hands in response papers*

**Feb. 8—Empire and Nationalism in Colonial East and Southeast Asia in the 1920’s and early 1930’s**


*Group 2 meets for discussion; Group 1 hands in response papers*
Feb. 15—Chaos, Disunity, and Nationalism in China in the 1920’s


Group 1 meets for discussion; Group 2 hands in response papers

***********Last Chance to hand in 1st Article Analysis—Feb. 15***********

Feb. 18-26—Reading Week—No class

March 1—Japan: Democratic Hope and Failure and the Rise of Militarism, 1920-1936

Frederick Dickinson, World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013), p. 84-102


** “Manchukuo and the Dream of Pan-Asia” in Eri Hotta, Pan-Asianism and Japan’s War, 1931-1945 (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), p. 107-139

Group 2 meets for discussion; Group 1 hands in response papers

March 8—The China War in the late 1930’s and the Road to Pearl Harbor


Diana Lary, China’s Republic (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2007), p. 112-149


Group 1 meets for discussion; Group 2 hands in response papers
March 15—World War II in the Asia-Pacific: Japan’s Short Triumph


*Group 2 meets for discussion; Group 1 hands in response papers*

**************Term Paper due—March 15**************

**************Response papers and article analyses for the week of March 15 are due March 20 by midnight**************

March 22—World War II: Wartime Empire


*Group 1 meets for discussion; Group 2 hands in response papers*

March 29—World War II in the Asia-Pacific: A Setting Sun


*Group 2 meets for discussion; Group 1 hands in response papers*
April 5—Legacies: The Ongoing Reverberations of the Two World Wars on the Contemporary Asia-Pacific


*Both groups meet together for discussion*

**********Last chance to hand in 2nd Article Analysis—April 5**********

**********Final Exam during April examination period**********

Use of Electronic Devices:
No electronic devices are permitted in tests or examinations.

Additional Statements:
Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness