

**The University of Western Ontario
Department of History**

History 3617G: World War, Empire, and Nation in the Asia-Pacific

Tuesdays 2:30 PM-5:30 PM

(3 hours total: 2 hours lecture, 1 hour tutorial/discussion)

Instructor: Carl Young

Office Hours: Wednesdays & Thursdays
1:00-2:00 PM

Office: LwH 2225

Telephone: (519)661-2111, x 84910

E-mail: cyoung73@uwo.ca

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

Required Texts

Selected readings available on the course OWL website

Course Evaluation

Term Paper (approximately 10-15 pages)	30%
Final Exam	30%
2 Article/Document analyses (15% each: 3-6 pages)	30%
Discussion Participation	<u>10%</u>
	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 first half of the 20th 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 16**.

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. 12 and Feb. 9, is Feb. 9. The last chance to hand in a 2nd article analysis, for articles between Feb. 23 and April 6, is April 6.** 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 is 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. Discussion participation 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 paper 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. The article analyses will not normally be accepted late, since there is flexibility as to when to hand them in. I normally request both an electronic copy of your assignment, submitted on OWL, and a paper copy submitted to myself in class, during my office hours, or through the History department office (please see below). Penalties stop on receipt of the first version (either electronic or paper) that has been received. However, I will normally only start marking your assignment when I have both versions of your assignment. If you have missed class, try and get notes from another member of the class. The Powerpoints for the lectures will also be posted after they have been presented.

If you do hand in your assignment late, please hand in your paper copy 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.

In case of family emergency, illness, or other circumstances, penalties can be removed from assignments after approval from academic counselling. In these circumstances, please get in contact with your home faculty or college's academic counselling office and submit the required forms and documentation. The office will then get in touch with me and give me recommendations for accommodation.

Students have the right to file one assignment per course per semester with academic counselling without supporting documentation. In this case, normally an extension will be given for 2-3 days, after which lateness penalties will begin.

Some students have access to flexibility in assignment deadlines through Accessible Education. This allows for extensions on assignments for a few days without having to go through academic counselling. Please come and consult with me to work out a new assignment deadline if you have this accommodation and you are exercising this option. Flexibility in assignment deadlines does not mean extending assignment submission over weeks or months. This is to avoid stress in the end of the semester with an accumulation of assignments for submission. If more time is needed than a few days, academic counselling will need to be consulted.

All written work (regardless of accommodations) must be submitted by the end of classes for winter semester, which is **April 9, 2027**. Any petition for extension beyond this date will require approval from the academic counselling office with supporting documentation.

Attendance at the seminar sessions and participating in discussion is an important part of the course. However, if you do miss a seminar class, after advice from academic

counselling, I will either request a 1-2 page response paper on the readings for the relevant week to make up for your participation mark for that week or I will waive the participation mark for that week. This flexibility should be the exception rather than the rule for your seminar participation mark.

Please consult the following for more in-depth information on department, faculty, and university policies on absences and late submissions.

- Social Science Academic Counselling on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#)
- the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#) and
- the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#))

History 3617G Readings—Jan.2027-April 2027

(Readings with a ‘**’ are eligible for the article analysis assignments)

Jan. 5—Introduction

Jan. 12—The Setting: The Asia-Pacific in the Early 20th Century

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (2nd edition)(New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999), p. 258-263, 271-277

Conrad Schirokauer et al, *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization* (Thomas Wadsworth, 2006), p. 216-228

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

** Ching Fatt Yong, “A Historical Turning Point: The 1911 Revolution and its Impact on Singapore’s Chinese Society” in Lee Lai To and Lee Hock Guan (eds.), *Sun Yat-sen, Nanyang, and the 1911 Revolution* (Singapore: ISEAS Publications, 2011), p. 148-169

** “Coup d’État in Three Acts: The Taishō Political Crisis, 1912-1913” in Danny Orbach, *Curse on This Country: The Rebellious Army of Imperial Japan* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2017), p. 129-157

Group 1 meets for discussion

Jan. 19—World War I in the Asia-Pacific

Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century* (4th edition)(Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014), p. 171, 174-177

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China* (2nd edition)(New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1999), p. 277-289

** “Imperialism in the Service of Democracy: Katō Takaaki and the Twenty-One Demands” in Frederick R. Dickinson, *War and National Re-invention: Japan in the Great War, 1914-1919*, (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Asia Center, 1999), p. 84-116

** “Work” in Xu Guoqi, *Strangers on the Western Front: Chinese Workers in the Great War* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011), p. 80-102

Group 2 meets for discussion

Jan. 26—An Uneasy Peace: The Consequences of World War I on the Asia-Pacific

Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century* (4th edition)(Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014), p. 196-198

Igor V. Naumov, *The History of Siberia* (Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2006), 163-176

** Tadashi Nakatani, “What Peace Meant to Japan: The Changeover at Paris in 1919” in Tosh Minohara et al (eds.), *The Decade of the Great War: Japan and the Wider World in the 1910’s* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), p. 168-188

** Gi-wook Shin and Rennie Moon, “1919 in Korea: National Resistance and Contending Legacies”, *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 78, No. 2 (May 2019), p. 399-408

** Paul E. Dunscomb, “A Great Disobedience Against the People: Popular Press Criticism of Japan’s Siberian Intervention, 1918-22”, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (Winter 2006), p. 53-81

Group 1 meets for discussion

Feb. 2—Empire and Nationalism in Colonial Southeast Asia in the 1920’s and early 1930’s

Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century* (4th edition)(Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014), p. 157-168

Norman G. Owen (ed.), *The Emergence of Modern Southeast Asia* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005), p. 252-267

** Sandra Khor Manickan, “Common Ground: Race and the Colonial Universe in British Malaya”, *Journal of Southeast Asian History*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (Oct. 2009), p. 593-612

** “Prison Cells and Party Cells: The Indochinese Communist Party in Prison” in Peter Zinoman, *The Colonial Bastille: A History of Imprisonment in Vietnam, 1862-1940* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2001), p. 200-239

Group 2 meets for discussion

Feb. 9— Empire and Nationalism in Colonial East Asia in the 1920’s and early 1930’s

R. Keith Schoppa, *East Asia: Identities and Change in the Modern World, 1700 to Present* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2008), p. 257-282

** “Post-March First Policy Reform and Assimilation” in Mark Caprio, *Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea, 1910-1945* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2009), p. 111-140

** “Peng Hsiao-yen, “Colonialism and the Predicament of Identity: Liu Na’ou and Yang Kui as Men of the World” in Liao Ping-hui and David Der-wei Wang (eds.), *Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945: History, Culture, and Memory* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), p. 210-247

Both groups meet together for discussion

********Last Chance to hand in 1st Article Analysis—Feb. 9********

Feb. 13-21—Reading Week—No class

Feb. 23-- Chaos, Disunity, and Nationalism in China in the 1920’s

R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and its Past: Identities and Change in Modern Chinese History (2nd Edition)*(Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Prentice Hall, 2006), p. 181-200

Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century (4th edition)*(Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014), p. 178-186

** *Sources of Chinese Tradition (2nd edition), Vol. II* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2000), p. 314-347

** Debin Ma, “The Rise of Modern Shanghai, 1900-1936: An Institutional Perspective” in Billy K.L. So and Ramon H. Myers (eds.), *The Treaty Port Economy in Modern China: Empirical Studies of Institutional Change and Economic Performance* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2011), p. 33-46

Group 1 meets for discussion

March 2—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

James L. McClain, *Japan: A Modern History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2002), p. 405-440

** “The Geneva Years” in Thomas W. Burkman, *Japan and the League of Nations: Empire and World Order, 1914-1938* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2008), p. 104-141

** “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

March 9—The China War in the late 1930’s and the Road to Pearl Harbor

S.C.M. Paine, *The Japanese Empire: Grand Strategy from the Meiji Restoration to the Pacific War* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2017), p. 109-139

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

** W.G. Beasley, *Japanese Imperialism: 1894-1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987), p. 198-219

** “A sort of wartime normal” in Rana Mitter, *China’s War with Japan, 1937-1945: The Struggle for Survival* (London; Allen Lane, 2013), p. 171-195

Group 1 meets for discussion

March 16—World War II in the Asia-Pacific: Japan’s Short Triumph

Mark Borthwick, *Pacific Century (4th edition)*(Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2014), p. 209-220

** *Sources of Japanese Tradition* (2nd edition), Vol. II, Part II (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), p. 288-319

** “The Patriotic Collaborators” in Jeremy A. Yellen, *The Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere: When Total Empire Met Total War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019), p. 105-140

Group 2 meets for discussion

******Term Paper due—March 16******

******Article analyses for the week of March 15 are due March 23******

March 23—World War II: Wartime Empire

Nicholas Tarling, *A Sudden Rampage: The Japanese Occupation of Southeast Asia, 1941-1945* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001), p. 144-217

** “Procurement of comfort women and their lives as sexual slaves” in Yuki Tanaka, *Japan’s Comfort Women: Sexual Slavery and Prostitution during World War II and the US Occupation* (London: Routledge, 2002), p. 33-60

** Shigeru Sato, “ ‘Economic Soldiers’ in Java: Indonesian Laborers Mobilized for Agricultural Projects” in Paul H. Kratoska (ed.), *Asian Labor in the Wartime Japanese Empire: Unknown Histories* (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2005), p. 129-151

** Tarak Barhawi, “Culture and Combat in the Colonies: The Indian Army in the Second World War”, *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 41, No. 2 (April 2006), p. 325-355

Group 1 meets for discussion

March 30— World War II in the Asia-Pacific: A Setting Sun

** Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, “The Soviet Factor in Ending the Pacific War: From the Neutrality Pact to Soviet Entry into the War in August 1945” in Tsuyoshi Hasegawa (ed.), *The End of the Pacific War: Reappraisals* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2021), p. 189-227

** “A Terrible New Weapon” in Haruko Taya Cook & Theodore F. Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History* (New York: The New Press, 1992), p. 382-399

** William J. Duiker, “The Days of August” in *Ho Chi Minh: A Life* (New York: Theia, 2000)

Group 2 meets for discussion

April 6—Legacies: The Ongoing Reverberations of the Two World Wars on the Contemporary Asia-Pacific

Conrad Schirokauer and Donald N. Clark, *Modern East Asia: A Brief History (2nd Edition)*(Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin, 2008), p. 324-353

Nicholas Tarling, *Imperialism in Southeast Asia* (London: Routledge, 2001), p. 237-284

** Alexandra Mackinnon, “The Battle of Hong Kong, Forgotten and Remembered: C Force, Cultural Memory and Commemoration”, *Canadian Military History*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2021), p. 1-24

** Phillip Deery, “Malaya, 1948: Britain’s Asian Cold War?”, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 2007), p. 29-54

Both groups meet together for discussion

********Last chance to hand in 2nd Article Analysis—April 6********
********Final Exam during April examination period********

Communication policies: E-mail is generally the easiest way to contact me for short questions. I will endeavour to answer within the day, although there may be delays on weekends and holidays in particular. You can also ask short questions during the class lecture breaks. For longer enquiries, please drop by during my office hours at my office. If you are unable to come to my normal office hours, please contact me to set up an alternative appointment, either in person or through Zoom. For general class announcements, I use the “Announcements” feature on OWL, so please check frequently on OWL to keep track of latest class developments.

Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):

You may use generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, in this course for activities such as researching and refining your ideas, or drafting an outline to organize your thoughts—but not for generating prose. All writing submitted in this course must be your own. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification and advice.

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:
https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.