

EAJ438 - WORLD WAR II: THE JAPANESE VIEW  
Spring 2019 Call Number 9841  
T Th 10:15 a.m.-11:35 a.m. Social Sciences Building 117

Instructor: Susanna Fessler  
Office Hours: T 12:00-1:00 p.m.; TH 9:00-  
10:00 a.m. and by appt.  
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Course Description:

This course will examine several works of Japanese literature written during and after World War II. The works include essays, novels, short stories, and some poems. We will give attention to the question of how the Japanese (as expressed through literature) perceived their role in the war, and if that attitude changed with the passing of time. Class format will include lectures and discussion; preparation for class is an important part of student evaluation. All readings are in English, but students who want to do the readings in Japanese are welcome to do so (see instructor for original texts). Course Prerequisites: EAJ212 or permission of the instructor.

Required Texts:

- *Soldiers Alive* by Ishikawa Tatsuzō
- *The Harp of Burma* by Takeyama Michio
- *Black Rain* by Ibuse Masuji
- *Fires on the Plain* by Ōoka Shōhei
- *Wheat and Soldiers* by Hino Ashihei This text is NOT in the bookstore. It is available online as a free e-text. The link to it is on Blackboard.
- *Citadel in Spring* by Agawa Hiroyuki. This text is NOT in the bookstore. It is available as a Kindle e-book. If you don't have a Kindle you can check one out of the library or you can read the book through the Kindle reader app available on the Amazon.com web site.
- Instructor selected readings available through the Blackboard Learning System.

Testing and Grading:

Students will be required to write one 10-page (3000 word) paper during the course of the semester. Students have the option of submitting a first draft for feedback before submitting a final draft. There will be a mid-term examination, and a final examination. Attendance will be taken regularly; students are expected to attend class unless extenuating circumstances prevent it. There will be intermittent, unannounced quizzes on the content of the reading. These quizzes are EASY if you have done the reading, but IMPOSSIBLE if you have not. Missed quizzes on days when a student DOES NOT have an excused absence CANNOT be made up.

Exams are a mixture of short answer and essay questions, and are open-book, open-note. This does not mean the exams are easy. Rather, it means I expect more of you because you have lots of resources at your fingertips.

I allow laptops and tablets and even smart phone use in the classroom, but ONLY for course-related uses (taking notes, bringing up .pdf readings from ERes, etc.). If I find you are checking Facebook or using other social media during class, I reserve the right to turn off your device and confiscate it until the end of class.

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Mid-Term Examination | 20% |
| 10-page paper        | 30% |
| Final Examination    | 20% |
| Quizzes              | 15% |
| Class Attendance     | 15% |

This syllabus is not negotiable. I agree to teach the topics listed below, and to grade you on the criteria listed above. I consider a grade of "Incomplete" to be for emergencies (death in the family, extreme illness, etc.), *not* for students who fail to plan ahead. **I do not curve grades. I do not give extra credit assignments.** This course is A-E graded. My grading scale is as follows: 93-100%=A; 90-92%=A-; 87-89%=B+; 83-86%=B; 80-82%=B-; 77-79%=C+; 73-76%=C; 70-72%=C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D; 60-62%=D-; 0-59%=E.

If you want to check on your performance at any point in the semester, feel free to come to my office and we'll run through the numbers. If there are extenuating circumstances which you anticipate will unduly affect your grade, it is your responsibility to speak with me IN ADVANCE.

**Academic Integrity:** According to the *Undergraduate Bulletin*, "It is every student's responsibility to become familiar with the standards of academic integrity at the University. Claims of ignorance, of unintentional error, or of academic or personal pressures are not sufficient reasons for violations of academic integrity." Any incident of plagiarism, cheating, unauthorized dual submission, forgery, sabotage, unauthorized collaboration, falsification, bribery, or theft, damage, or misuse of library resources will be reported immediately to the Undergraduate Dean's office, and will result in no credit for the assignment in question.

| Date  |    |    | Topic                             | Reading  |
|-------|----|----|-----------------------------------|--|
| Jan.  | 24 | Th | Course Introduction               | NONE   |
|       | 28 | T  | A Brief History of the War        | Selections from <i>Japan at War</i>                                    |
|       | 31 | Th | Intro to war literature           | “The Barren Years” & “Japanese Writers and the Greater East Asian War” |
| Feb.  | 5  | T  | The Propaganda                    | <i>Earth and Soldiers</i>  |
|       | 7  | Th | The Propaganda, con’t             | <i>Wheat and Soldiers</i>  |
|       | 12 | T  | Closer to the Truth               | <i>Soldiers Alive</i> , chapters 1-6                                   |
|       | 14 | Th | <i>Closer to the Truth</i>        | <i>Soldiers Alive</i> , chapters 7-12                                  |
|       | 19 | T  | Oguma Hideo’s Poetry              | <i>Tumbleweed Company</i> ; <i>Long, Long Autumn Nights</i>            |
|       | 21 | Th | Revising History                  | “The Past in the Present” (Gluck)                                      |
|       | 26 | T  | Revising the War in China         | <i>Citadel in Spring</i> , chapters 1-5                                |
|       | 28 | Th | Revising the War in China         | <i>Citadel in Spring</i> , chapters 6-11                               |
| March | 5  | T  | A Rosy View                       | <i>Harp of Burma</i> , pp. 11-31                                       |
|       | 7  | Th | No Class – Instructor out of town | on this day  |
|       | 12 | T  | A Rosy View                       | <i>Harp of Burma</i> , pp. 32-132                                      |
|       | 14 | Th | Midterm Exam                      | NONE   |
|       | 19 | T  | SPRING BREAK                      | NONE   |
|       | 21 | Th | SPRING BREAK                      | NONE   |
|       | 26 | T  | How to Write about Literature     | NONE   |
|       | 28 | Th | Life of a POW                     | <i>Fires on the Plain</i> , pp. 3-111                                  |
| April | 2  | T  | Life of a POW                     | <i>Fires on the Plain</i> , pp. 112-246                                |
|       | 4  | Th | Hayashi Fumiko                    | “Bones”  |
|       | 9  | T  | Ibuse Masuji                      | “Lieutenant Lookeast”; “The Charcoal Bus”                              |
|       | 11 | Th | Kojima Nobuo                      | “Stars” <b>First Draft Due</b>   |
|       | 16 | T  | Mori Hana                         | “Jirohattan”   |
|       | 18 | Th | Sakaguchi Ango                    | “The Idiot”  |
|       | 23 | T  | Umezaki Haruo                     | “Sakurajima”   |
|       | 25 | Th | Hara Tamiki                       | “Summer Flower”  |
|       | 30 | T  | Ōe Kenzaburō                      | “Prize Stock”  |
| May   | 2  | Th | The Atomic Bomb                   | <i>Black Rain</i> , Chapters 1-10; <b>Final Draft Due</b>              |
|       | 7  | T  | The Atomic Bomb                   | <i>Black Rain</i> , Chapters 11-20                                     |

**The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**