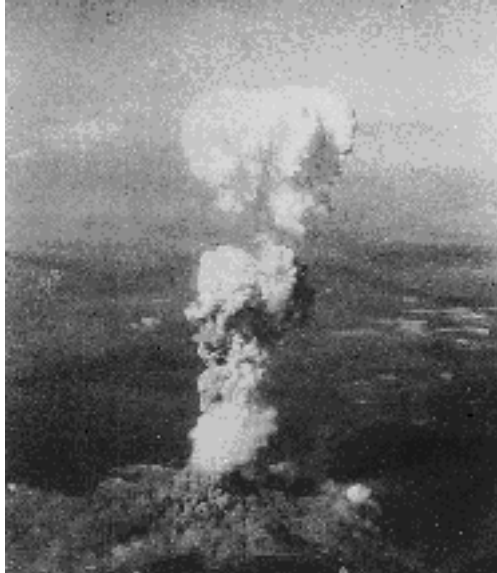


History 192C: Seminar in Recent Interpretations of Asian history Hiroshima as History

Fall 2021; Wednesdays 1:30-2:45; ARC 1008
HYBRID



"Now, I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds."
-- J. Robert Oppenheimer quoting *Bhagavad-Gita*

GENERAL INFORMATION

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

Office: Tahoe 3088

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-2:30,
Wednesday 10:00-11:30,
Thursdays 10:30-12:00

And by appointment

In person and by Zoom: <https://csus.zoom.us/my/dymofficehours>

<http://www.csus.edu/faculty/d/dym/>

e-mail: Dym@csus.edu

CSUS CATALOG DESCRIPTION

Reading seminar in recent scholarship and current trends in the interpretation of Asian history. Designed especially for History majors and present and prospective history teachers. Note: not open to lower division students. 3 units.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

To some people, history is nothing more than an unending series of names, places, events, and dates—what some might call “facts.” The serious student of history knows, however, that a deep understanding of a historical “fact” only comes from placing that fact within the context of other facts and applying cogent analysis. It is through interpretation that meaningful understanding arises. Some insist that history is objective and complain that historians are constantly rewriting history—a complaint based on the supposition that historical understanding never changes. In reality, there is a never-ending sublime reinterpretation of facts based on an ever-evolving understanding of the world. Moreover, each historian’s unique understanding of the world, affects their understanding and interpretation of history.

This course will primarily focus on two historical facts: at 8:15 on August 6, 1945 an uranium atomic bomb exploded above Hiroshima, Japan, and at 11:02 on August 9, 1945 a plutonium atomic bomb exploded over the city of Nagasaki. Few events in world history have so clearly demarcated a drastic change in human civilization as the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Over the next 16 weeks we will examine how various people over the last 76 years have interpreted these events and how their understanding of these events has been influenced by the world in which they wrote. Gender, race, nationality, education, and political views are just a few of the factors that weave their way into one’s analysis of history. We will try and uncover these elements in the writings about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that we will be reading and in your analytical writings on these readings. In addition, we will view a number of movies, video clips, photographs, and other audio-visual material to give us an aural and visual history of what transpired. These audio-visual depictions will also reveal an evolution in how people have interpreted the bombings. Finally, we will look at how the bombings have shaped the national identities of Japan and America.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To gain a deeper understanding of the nature of historical scholarship.
- To delve into the interpretation of history.
- To gain a sense of how to read, think, and write critically about history.
- To understand how one’s world view affects one’s understanding of history as well as one’s writing about history.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Ienaga Saburo, *Pacific War, 1931-1945* (1979).
E.B. Sledge, *With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa* (1981).
Gar Alperovitz. *The Decision to Use the Bomb* (1995).
Richard B. Frank, *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire* (1999).
Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman and the Surrender of Japan* (2005).
John Hersey. *Hiroshima* (1946; 1985).
Susan Southard, *Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War* (2015).

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING RUBRIC

Class attendance (Attend in person class; Watch videos in their entirety)	15%
Class participation (Talk in class)	20%
Panopto Film Discussions	25%
Position papers	40%

Just a note about your grade. This is not an accumulation of points class. Each item is weighted as laid out above. Canvas will weigh the grades. Points are out of 10, 20 or 100 points for the various items simply because it is easier to calculate the score that way.

Final Grades will be determined by overall course %

	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 65-69%	
A = 93-100%	B = 83-86%	C- = 73-76%	D = 60-64%	
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%		F = 59% or less

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. Students should notify me in the event of extended absence. Withdrawals will be permitted only up to the scheduled deadline. No students may leave the classroom before the class hour ends unless I am informed before class of an unavoidable appointment. All cellular telephones must be set on Silent Mode. Using your phone in class **will negatively** affect your grade.

The films **must be watched in Canvas** in their entirety at normal speed by class time of the assigned date. Panopto, the integrated streaming service for the films, allows me to tell how much of a movie was watched, thus in order to earn film viewing credit you need to watch the film within Canvas. If you need to take a break from watching a film, exit the film and you can later pick up where you left off. Do not put your computer to sleep until you exit the film and browser.

In the case of double features, you need to watch both films in their entirety.

The score for watching the film(s) is based on the percentage of the film(s) watched:

Less than 85%: 0; 86-89%: 4; 90-93%: 6; 94-95%: 8; 96-100%: 10

If you believe there is an error with your attendance score for a particular class session, you have 48 hours to notify me from the time the grade is posted, otherwise it will remain as marked.

I do understand that we are living in uncertain times and that you all have lives outside of Sacramento State and that at times obligations come up that you must deal with. Thus,

you are allowed to miss a total of two “classes” before your grade is affected. A class is defined as watching the films by midnight on the date they are due and the all of the in-person sessions.

The attendance portion of the class will be graded as follows:

2 or less missed classes = 100% 3 missed classes = 90%
4 missed classes = 75% 5 missed classes = 60%
6 missed classes = 0%

COVID 19

If you are sick, stay home and do not attend class. Notify me of your absence via email. If you are experiencing any COVID- like symptoms (fever, cough, sore throat, muscle aches, loss of smell or taste, nausea, diarrhea, or headache) or have had exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID contact **Student Health & Counseling Services (SHCS) at 916-278-6461** to receive guidance and/or medical care. You are asked to report any possible COVID related illnesses/exposures to SHCS via this link [COVID-19 Illness/Exposure Report Form](#). Expect a call from SHCS within 24 hours.

CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class participation forms a major portion of your grade. Everyone is expected to be prepared and to participate in class discussion. I am looking for quality insightful comments. You will be given a grade for participation for every in-person class. Thus, it is imperative that you read the books and watch the films and think about them.

PANOPTO FILM DISCUSSIONS

For every assigned film in the class, you are required to leave at least two discussion comments, 75-150 words in length, on the film within the Panopoto discussion area. The discussions are tied to the timecode of the film so should be about that particular scene or event and should bring out what you are thinking or how you are reacting to that scene in a sophisticated and thoughtful manner.

NOTE ON THE FILMS IN THIS COURSE: Certain screenings in this course may contain material some may find offensive or disturbing. Your enrollment in this course indicates your awareness of this and your willingness to approach these films in a critical manner.

History is often brutal and violent and dark and some of the screenings will delve into those aspects of history. The offensive or disturbing material may include but is not limited to: nuclear warfare, genocide, war, imperialism, murder, rape, domestic violence, child abuse, miscarriages, suicide, nudity, and racism.

POSITION PAPERS

Position papers should be double spaced and at least 600 words, but no more than 1000 words in length. Roughly two to three pages. These papers should contain a succinct

summary of the **THESIS** of the work and your critical reaction to it. Through the position paper you must show me that you have thought critically about the reading. Do not summarize the reading! Focus on the **THESIS** of the reading and write a cogent and analytical paper that takes a position for or against the thesis and is supported with evidence. Position papers must take into consideration who the author is and what sources are used to back up the arguments. Position papers should be clearly organized and well written.

You must write a position paper for every reading and submit it PRIOR to class within Canvas. **I will not accept any late position papers.**

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This course follows the Hornet Honor Code.

As Hornets, we will:

1. Promote an inclusive campus and community.
2. Listen and respect each other's thoughts, interests, and views.
3. Value diversity and learn from one another.
4. Engage daily with mutual trust, care, and integrity.
5. Support a culture of honor and adhere to campus policies for honesty, ethics, and conduct.
6. Be proud to be Sac State Hornets.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: [Student Rights Responsibilities](#)

Academic Calendar: [Sacramento State Academic calendar](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability and require assistance or academic accommodation, please contact Services for Students with Disabilities immediately to discuss eligibility. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) is located on the Sacramento State Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955 (Phone), 916-278-7239 (TDD). For a complete listing of services and current business hours visit <http://www.csus.edu/sswd>

Sacramento State is committed to ensuring that our online learning tools are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any accessibility issues with the course or instructional content, please contact our SSWD office. They will assist you in resolving the issue or, where appropriate, connect you with appropriate staff.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Academic Advising: [Academic Advising](#)

Student Success Center: [Student Success Center](#)

Reading and Writing Center: [Reading & Writing Center](#)

Peer & Academic Resource Center: [PARC](#)

Martin Luther King Center: [Martin Luther King Center](#)

Multicultural Center: [Multicultural Center](#)

Dreamer Resource Center: [Dreamer Resource Center](#)

Crisis Assistance and Resource Education Support (CARES): [CARES website](#)

If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away! The CARES office provides case management support for any enrolled student. Email the CARES office at cares@csus.edu to speak with a case manager about the resources available to you.

Student Health and Counseling Services: [Student Health and Counseling Services](#)

Basic Needs Support: If you are experiencing challenges in the area of food and/or stable housing, help is just a click, email or phone call away! Sacramento State offers basic needs support for students who are experiencing challenges in these areas. Please visit our Basic Needs website to learn more about your options and resources available <https://www.csus.edu/basicneeds/>

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week	IN CLASS	Assignments
Week 1 Sept. 1	Introduction to Course	
Week 2 Sept. 8	Hiroshima as an Affair to Remember Discussion: <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i>	Watch: <i>Hiroshima Mon Amour</i>
Week 3 Sept. 15	Background: The Pacific War Discussion: Ienaga Saburo, <i>Pacific War, 1931-1945</i> .	Read: Ienaga Saburo, <i>Pacific War, 1931-1945</i> .
Week 4 Sept. 22	Background: The Pacific War	Watch: <i>Victory in the Pacific</i> , Part 1 & Part 2

	Discussion: <i>Victory in the Pacific</i> , Part 1 & Part 2	
Week 5 Sept. 29	Background: The Pacific War Discussion: E. B. Sledge, <i>With the Old Breed</i> .	Read: E. B. Sledge, <i>With the Old Breed</i> .
Week 6 Oct. 6	Background: The Pacific War Discussion: <i>Wings of Defeat</i>	Watch: <i>Wings of Defeat</i>
Week 7 Oct. 13	Political History: The Decision to Drop the Bomb Discussion: Gar Alperovitz, <i>The Decision to Use the Bomb</i> , "Book One: The Decision," pp. 15-420.	Read: Gar Alperovitz, <i>The Decision to Use the Bomb</i> , "Book One: The Decision," pp. 15-420.
Week 8 Oct. 20	The Decision to Drop the Bomb & The Making of the Bomb Discussion: Double Feature: <i>Lifting the Fog: The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki & The Day After Trinity: J. Robert Oppenheimer & The Atomic Bomb</i>	Double Feature, Watch: <i>Lifting the Fog: The Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki & The Day After Trinity: J. Robert Oppenheimer & The Atomic Bomb</i>
Week 9 Oct. 27	Military History: The Decision to Drop the Bomb Discussion: Richard B. Frank, <i>Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire</i> .	Read: Richard B. Frank, <i>Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire</i> .
Week 10 Nov. 3	Victim's Voices: Victims of the Japanese Discussion: : <i>Japanese War Crimes: Murder Under the Sun & Japanese Devils</i>	Double Feature, Watch: <i>Japanese War Crimes: Murder Under the Sun & Japanese Devils</i>

Week 11 Nov. 10	<p>Political & Military History: The Decision to Drop the Bomb Reconsidered</p> <p>Discussion: Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, <i>Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman and the Surrender of Japan</i>.</p>	Read: Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, <i>Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman and the Surrender of Japan</i> .
Week 12 Nov. 17	<p>Nuclear Weapons</p> <p>Discussion: <i>Trinity and Beyond: The Atomic Bomb Movie, Fog of War, Fallout: How to Protect Yourself</i>, and Time lapse of World Wide A-bomb testing.</p>	Watch: <i>Trinity and Beyond: The Atomic Bomb Movie, Fog of War, Fallout: How to Protect Yourself</i> , and Time lapse of World Wide A-bomb testing.
Week 13 Nov. 24	<p>Images of Destruction</p> <p>Discussion: John Hersey. <i>Hiroshima</i> (1946; 1985).</p>	Read: John Hersey. <i>Hiroshima</i> (1946; 1985).
Week 14 Dec. 1	<p>Whose History is it Anyway?: Japan as Victim</p> <p>Discussion: <i>Barefoot Gen & Gojira</i></p>	Double Feature, Watch: <i>Barefoot Gen & Gojira</i>
Week 15 Dec. 8	<p>Victim's Voices</p> <p>Discussion: Susan Southard, <i>Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War</i> (2015).</p>	Susan Southard, <i>Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War</i> (2015).
Week 16 MONDAY Dec. 13 12:45-2:45	<p>The Making of History</p> <p>Discussion: What do we know about the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki?</p>	Double Feature Watch: <i>The Bomb & White Light, Black Rain</i>