

First Year Seminar IB 25
Spring, 2017
13:00-14:30
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Hiroshima: Continuous Challenge with New Meanings

Course Description:

The course will explore the atomic bomb experience of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and its significance, which is nothing short of an unprecedented change in human history. We will begin by examining a road to the Asian Pacific War with a focus on the racial aspect of the war. We will not neglect to study Japan's brutality on the Asian continents. We will analyze the forces which culminated in the atomic bombings and discuss why America dropped them. Then, we will explore the power of the atomic bombs by evaluating their physical, medical, and social effects on these two cities and their residents. Our investigations of these issues will include reading survivors' accounts of the agony and destruction of the atomic bombings. This course also discusses the situation of Korean atomic bomb victims, whose voices have long been suppressed. By absorbing historical studies, eyewitness accounts, documentary films, photographs, poems and animation, we will attempt to comprehend the realities of what happened at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Through this course, by recognizing the long-lasting impacts of the atomic bombs on human beings and society, we hope to understand anew their implications for the whole world at present; furthermore, by addressing the Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, we will examine the impact of environmental degradation and the crisis of human existence.

Course Objective

The primary objectives of this course are to strengthen students' knowledge of the atomic bombings and to gain a greater understanding of them by critically examining diverse narratives. This class will provide students with an opportunity to consider not only how Hiroshima's message can speak to the people who suffered under the brutal Japanese occupation in Asia, but also to contemplate the meaning and impact of the events in the contemporary world.

Course Materials

Required Text

Hogan Michael J. (ed.). *Hiroshima in History and Memory*. London and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996.

Additional Texts

- Dower John. *Japan in War and Peace: Selected Essays*. New York: The New Press, 1993 (selections).
- Ienaga Saburo. *The Pacific War, 1931-1945: A Critical Perspective on Japan's Role in World War II*. New York: Pantheon, 1978 (selections).
- Intondi Vincent. *African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism and the Black Freedom Movement*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press, 2015 (introduction & Chapter 1).
- Lifton Robert J., and Greg Michell. *Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial*. New York: Avon Books, 1995(selections).
- Takaki Ronald. *Hiroshima: Why America Dropped the Atomic Bomb*. Boston and New York: Little, Brown and Company, 1995 (selections).
- The Committee for the Compilation of Materials on Damage Caused by the Atomic Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. *The Impact of the A-Bomb: Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945-85* (selections).
- Seedless Kyoko and Mark Selden(eds.). *The Atomic Bomb: Voices from Hiroshima and Nagasaki*. London: M.E. Sharp, Inc., 1989.
- Smethurst Richard J. "Japan, The United States, and the Road to World War II in the Pacific." *The Asian Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 37 (2012).
- Stone Oliver and Peter Kuznick. *Untold History of The United States*, Gallery Books: New York, 2012 (selections).
- Toyonaga Keisaburo. "Colonialism and Atomic Bombs: About Survivors of Hiroshima Living in Korea," trans. Cazdyn Eric and Lisa Yoneyama. In *Perilous Memories: The Asian Pacific War(s)*, pp. 378-409.

Expect for the main textbook, xeroxes of assigned reading will be distributed in class the week before they are due.

Films

- ABC Special: *Hiroshima: Why the Bomb was Dropped*. Narr. Peter Jennings. 1996.
- Nakazawa Keiji. *Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima*. *Obama Speech at Hiroshima*, 2016. YouTube video, posted by "VOA Op-ED," May 27, 2016.
- Okazaki Steven. *White Light Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*.
- Stone Oliver and Kuznick Peter. *The Untold History of the United States*. Warner Brothers, 2012.

Song

- Wilson, Ric. "Sprit of Hiroshima." Mandrill Music, 2010, MP3.

Course Requirements:

The format of the course will be short lectures followed by discussions and presentations. Students will be expected to read all the assigned articles and books thoroughly before class, and prepare questions for class discussions.

Final Paper and Oral Presentations

Students should write a 5-8 page paper based on themes relevant to this course. Before starting to write the paper, you must submit a brief synopsis. Each student is required to deliver a short presentation (10 minutes) based on her/his final paper. The final paper is due on July 18.

Discussion Questions

During class discussions, all students are required to ask one question about the assigned readings (articles, chapters).

Reflection Essay

Students should write a one-page reflection paper: How has your view of Hiroshima changed (or remained unchanged) after taking this course? The reflection essay is due on July 25.

Evaluation:

Class participation: 20%
Discussion questions: 10%
Oral presentation: 20%
Paper synopsis: 5%
Final paper: 35%
Reflection essay: 10%

The class participation grade will be based on students' preparation for and contributions to class discussion.

Since this syllabus is worked out in advance as a guide to the course, I reserve the right to modify it if it is necessary. Should a change be made, an announcement will be given in advance.

Class Schedule

Week 1(4/ 11): Introduction and “ Obama Speech at Hiroshima” (May 27,

2016)

Week 2(4/18) : The Origins of the Asian Pacific War I

We examine the origins of the Japan-U.S. conflict while paying attention to the racial aspect of this war.

Readings: Smethurst Richard J. "Japan, the United States, and the Road to World War II in the Pacific." http://japanfocus.org/-richard_j_-smethurst/3825/article.html

Ienaga Saburo. "Japan Extends the Way to the Pacific," in *The Pacific War 1931-45*, pp.129-152

Suggested Readings: Showalter Dennis. "Storm over the Pacific: Japan's Road to Empire and War," in *The Pacific War: From Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima*, pp. 15-28.

Azuma Eiichiro. "Pioneers of Overseas Japanese Development: Japanese American History and the Making of Expansionist Orthodoxy in Imperial Japan," *The Journal of Asian Studies* 4 (November 2008):118-226.

Handout: A list of pivotal events since the *bakumatsu* period and a brief expiation of their significance.

Week 3(4/25) : The Origins of the Asian Pacific War II

This week we focus on Japan's imperialistic aspirations and brutal occupation of the Asian continent.

Readings: Ienaga Saburo. "The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: Liberation or Exploitation," in *The Pacific War 1931-1945*, pp. 153-180. Dower John. "Race, Language, and War in Two Cultures," in *Japan in War & Peace*, pp. 257-285.

Week 4 (5/9): Documentary Film: "Hiroshima: Why the Bomb was Dropped"

While watching the documentary, which was made by ABC, a major American T.V. network, we will carefully evaluate this document.

Week 5(5 /16): The Decision to Use the Bomb I

We will examine both narratives over the use of atomic bomb and evaluate them critically.

Readings: Walker Samuel J. "The Decision to Use the Bomb," in *Hiroshima in History and Memory*," ed. Hogan Michael, pp. 11-37. Bit Herbert P. "Japan's Delayed Surrender: A Reinterpretation." pp. 80-115.

Week 6(5/23): The Decision to Use the Bomb II

Readings: Takaki Ronald, *Hiroshima: Why America Dropped the Atomic Bomb* (selections).
Intondi Vincent, *African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement* (introduction & Chapter 1).
Stone Oliver and Kuznick Peter, *Untold Story of the United States*(selections).

Week 7(5/30) : Harry Truman's Irreversible Decision

Readings: Lifton Robert J., and Greg Michell. *Hiroshima in America: A Half Century of Denial*. New York: Avon Books, 1995(Part II, 1, 2, & 3)

Week 8 (6/6): The Power of the Atomic Bombs: The Physical, Medical and Social Effects of Atomic Bombings

We will examine the physical, medical, and social impact of the A-bombs; moreover, we will explore the Lucky Dragon No. 5 incident of 1945, where a group of tuna fishermen were exposed to fallout from a U.S. hydrogen bomb experiment.

Readings: The Committee for the Compilation of Materials on Damage Caused by the Atomic Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. "Hiroshima A City Laid Waste," in *The Impact of the A-Bomb: Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945-85*, pp. 7-5
Schreiber Mark, "Lucky Dragon's Lethal Catch," *The Japan Times*, March 18, 2012.

Week 9(6/13): Who are the Victims?: The Diversity of the Target

We will first discuss the origins of the Korean community in

Hiroshima and the tragedy of Korean atomic bomb victims.

Readings:Hotta Chisato, “Who are the Victims ? “

Hoom Kwi Kuak. “Father and Son Robbed of Body and Soul,” in *The Atomic Bomb Voices: From Hiroshima and Nagasaki*. eds. Selden Kyoko and Selden Mark, pp. 200-204. Kim In Jo. “Koreans...and Americans and Chinese Are Also Victims,” in *The Atomic Bomb Voices: From Hiroshima and Nagasaki*. eds. Selden Kyoko and Selden Mark, pp. 205-214.

Toyonaga Keisaburo. “Colonial and Atomic Bombs: About Survivors of Hiroshima Living in Korea, trans. Cazdyn Eric and Yoneyama Lisa, in *Perilous Memories: The Asia- Pacific War(s)*, eds. Fujitani Takashi, White Geoffrey M., and Yoneyama Lisa, pp. 378-409.

Dower John, “The Bombed: Hiroshimas and Nagasakis in Japanese Memory” in *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp.116-142.

Tachibana Seiitsu, “ The Quest for a Peace Culture: The A-bomb Survivors’ Long Struggle and the New Movement for Redressing Foreign Victims of Japan’s War, in *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp. 168-186.

Week 10(6/20) : Witnesses to Atomic Bombings I: *White Light Black Rain*

Week 11(6/27) : Witnesses to Atomic Bombings II: *Barefoot Gen*

Suggested Reading: Nakazawa Keiji, “Hiroshima: The Autobiography of “ Barefoot Gen,” trans. and ed. Minear Richard H., *The Asian Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* (September 2010): pp. 1-12.

Week 12(7/4) : Hiroshima in American Memory: The Smithsonian Controversy of 1997

We will first discuss *White Light Black Rain* and *Barefoot Gen*. Then, in the second half of this class; we will investigate the “The Smithsonian Controversy” and its meanings.

Reading: Hogan Michael J. “The Enola Gay Controversy: History, Memory, and the Politics of Presentation,” in *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp.200-32.

Week 13 (7/11): The Legacy of Hiroshima and The Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Incident

We will discuss the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Incident and how the experience of Hiroshima can be utilized.

Week 14 (7/18): Student Presentation.

Term Paper due

Week 15(7/25) : Student Presentation & Wrap-up

Reflection Paper due