THE PACIFIC WAR

Reading: Ronald H. Spector, Eagle Against the Sun: The American War With Japan
Akira Iriye, Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War
John Dower, Ways of Forgetting, Ways of Remembering
E.B. Sledge, With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa

Requirements: Two essays on the reading (20% each), a midterm exam (20%), an end-of-term exam (including a research project: 30%), and class participation (including map quiz and film response papers: 10%).

Office Hours: 1-3 Tuesdays, and by appointment, in 327 McKenzie. Email: hanes@uoregon.edu; phone: 6-4837.

GTF Office Hours: 1-3 Fridays, and by appointment, in 340C McKenzie. Email: Lericks2@uoregon.edu

Learning Objectives:
- To develop a balanced historical understanding of the origins of Pacific War
- To become familiar with the human and physical geography of war in the Pacific
- To appreciate how and why this particular war was fought with such brutality (as a “war without mercy”)
- To look at the Pacific War through the eyes of its warriors, on both sides, as well as its victims
- To develop balanced historical analyses/interpretations of war and conflict.
- To utilize and interpret primary sources
- To develop historical arguments, written and oral, based on empirical evidence

Week One. War and Modernity.

March 30. The Past in the Present.

Reading: Spector, Eagle Against Sun, xi-53.
Begin Iriye, Pearl Harbor, 1-53.

Week Two. Competing Modernities.

April 6. The Glorification of War. Field Trip to JSMA: Michels Print Collection.
April 8. (Inter-)Nationalist Japan.


**Week Three. Visions of Empire.**

April 13. Nationalists and Imperialists.
April 15. Rising Sun Over the Pacific. Film: “Hidden Internment”

**IRIYE ESSAY DUE IN CLASS.**

Reading: Spector, *Eagle Against Sun*, 93-141.
Dower, Chapter 4, 105-135.

**Week Four. Attacking the Empire.**

April 20. Turning the Tide of War: Midway and Guadalcanal.
April 22. The New Guinean Cartwheel. Film: “Angels of War”

Dower, Chapter 2, 28-64.

**Week Five. War Without Mercy.**

April 27. Pacific Purgatory.
April 29. The Valley of Darkness.

Reading: Spector, *Eagle Against Sun*, 252-364.
Dower, Chapter 3, 65-104.

**Week Six. The Beginning of the End.**

May 6. **MIDTERM EXAMINATION (IN CLASS).**

Review Dower, Chapters 2, 3 and 4 for midterm.

**Week Seven. Debilitation to Desperation: The War of Attrition.**

May 11. Desperation. Film Clip: “The Emperor’s Naked Army Marches On”
May 13. From Rising Sun to Setting Sun. Film Clip: “Oba, the Last Samurai”

Reading: Spector, *Eagle Against Sun*, 478-531.
Begin Sledge, *With the Old Breed*, xi-158.
Week Eight. “Gut(ting) the Heart of Japan With Fire.”

May 18. Fire Bombs. Film Clip: “Grave of the Fireflies”
May 20. Assault and Annihilation: From Okinawa to the A-Bomb.
   Film: “Our Job in Japan”

   Reading: Spector, Eagle Against Sun, 532-566.
   Complete Sledge, With the Old Breed, 159-320.
   Dower, Chapters 5, 6 and 7, 137-184.

Week Nine. Capitulation and Occupation.

May 25. MEMORIAL DAY (NO CLASS).
May 27. Embracing Defeat. Film Clip: “Macarthur’s Children”
   SLEDGE ESSAY DUE IN CLASS.

   Reading: Dower, Chapters 8 and 9, 185-255.
   Begin Research Project (for midterm #2).

Week Ten. Legacies of War.

June 1. After Empire. Film: “Unreturned Soldiers from Malaysia/Thailand”
June 3. War: What Is It Good For?

   Reading: Dower, Chapters 10 and 11, 256-269.
   Complete Research Project (for midterm #2)

The end-of-term exam is a take home test. Half of the test will consist of individual research projects; the other half will pose questions on class material since the midterm. The final exams must be submitted in hard copy to Lucas Erickson by 5 PM on Monday, June 8.