Course Title:
Seminar in Modern Japanese History: Japan and the Atomic Bomb

Course Number:
HIST 6800-103

Course Description:
This seminar uses the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945 as a focal point for examining wartime Japan, the Pacific War between Japan and the U.S., and how memory of the war and its end continues to animate US-Japan relations as well as ideas about national identity in both countries. In addition, we will look at how experiences and memories of wartime atomic victimhood have provoked discussion and debate in Japan since the recent earthquake and tsunami disasters of March 11, 2011, the subsequent nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, and the reflections on Japan’s atomic history these events engendered. We will begin by studying postwar interpretations of the reasons for the dropping of the bombs. We will also consider in detail the political and cultural meanings Americans and Japanese have ascribed to the bomb, and the way these divergent understandings have played out in diplomatic relations between the two countries. In order to understand debates about the decision to use the bomb as well as debates over the legacies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we will study Japan’s entire wartime period beginning in 1931 that led to the ultimate confrontation with the U.S., as well as the immediate postwar period of occupation in which important interpretations about the war, its causes, and the tragedy of the bombs were formulated in both countries. While we will spend significant time discussing the decision to drop the bomb (a debate that has taken place largely among American historians from a U.S. perspective), the course will also focus considerable attention on understanding the meanings of the war and the legacies of the atomic bombs from the Japanese perspective.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: February 4-10, 2013
- Location: U.S. Coast Guard, San Diego, Wardroom. Directions available from gate guard.
- Hours: Mon-Fri 4:30 pm - 8:00 pm; Sat 8:00 am - 4:30 pm; Sun 8:00 am - 12:30 pm
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 6, 2013

Site Director:
Mikel Siphaxay. Phone: 619-322-1724. Fax: 858-569-0519. Email: ousandiego@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
- Course Professor: Elyssa Faison
- Mailing Address: Dept. of History, 455 W. Lindsey St.
  University of Oklahoma
  Norman, OK 73019
- Telephone Number: (405) 325-6002
- Fax Number: (405) 325-4503
- E-mail Address: efaison@ou.edu
- Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.
Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials: 
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.). (Text prices are available online.)

5. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.
6. Optional Purchase: Students who wish to have a better grounding in 20th century Japanese history and the significant changes to Japan’s politics, economy and society that provided the backdrop for imperial expansion, war, and eventual defeat, may wish to read selections from one of the widely available textbooks. I would recommend in particular Andrew Gordon’s *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford 2003), or Kenneth Pyle’s *The Making of Modern Japan*.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:
1. To understand the history of Japan’s road to militarism and war in Asia and with the United States.
2. To understand debates surrounding the reasons for the U.S. decision to use the atomic bomb in Japan, as well as debates over whether the use of the bombs was necessary to end the war.
3. To understand the social, environmental, and political effects of the bombs in Japan.
4. To understand how the use of the bomb has contributed to the construction of national identity in postwar Japan and to the dynamics of the postwar US-Japan relationship.

Course Outline:
Class sessions will consist of a combination of lecture, discussion, and video presentations, with special emphasis on the discussion component. Students will be expected to be able to discuss readings thoughtfully and intelligently, and to make connections between those readings and lecture/video materials. To this end, all assigned readings must be completed before our weeklong seminar begins. Each student should expect to make a short presentation summarizing and evaluating a reading assignment at least once during our week of class.

Since students are not expected to have any prior knowledge of Japanese history, several hour-long lectures will focus on Japan’s path toward modernity and eventually toward war beginning with the Meiji Restoration of 1868, and culminating with defeat in 1945.

Class discussion will be the central focus of our seminar, and will focus on readings assigned for the day. Each student will be expected to engage in discussion with insightful comments and questions that reflect an engagement with the readings during every class period. All readings listed below will either be a book
required for purchase, essays and selections available on D2L as a PDF file, or accessible from the online journal japanfocus.org.

- **Monday, Feb 4**
  - Films: Compare two short A-bomb documentaries
  - Lecture: The Meiji Restoration/First Modern Wars
  - Discussion: Dower, “Race, Language and War in Two Cultures” (D2L); Ienaga, *Pacific War, 1931-1945* (first half)

- **Tuesday, Feb 5**
  - Lecture: Imperial Expansion/War with China
  - Discussion: Ienaga, *Pacific War, 1931-1945* (finish); Hasegawa, *Racing the Enemy* (first half)

- **Wednesday, Feb 6**
  - Discussion: Hasegawa (finish); Bernstein “Understanding the A-Bomb” (D2L), Stimson, “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb” (D2L); Fussell, “Thank God for the Atom Bomb” (D2L); Alperovitz (D2L)

- **Thursday, Feb 7**
  - Lecture: The Occupation
  - Discussion: John Hersey’s *Hiroshima* (entire book); Select chapters from *Filling the Hole in the Nuclear Future* (D2L)
  - Film: *Barefoot Gen* (short selection)

- **Friday, Feb 8**
  - Lecture: The Occupation and Beyond
  - Discussion: Dower, “Triumphal and Tragic Narratives” (D2L); Todeschini, “Illegitimate Sufferers” (D2L); Oishi, *The Day the Sun Rose in the West* (entire book)

- **Saturday, Feb 9**
  - Lecture: A Guide to Writing Final Papers
  - Discussion: Hogan, “The Enola Gay Controversy” (D2L); Linenthal, “Anatomy of a Controversy” (D2L); Selection from *Filling the Hole in the Nuclear Future* (D2L)
  - Film: *White Light, Black Rain* OR *Japan’s About Face*
  - Discussion: Selections from *Filling the Hole in the Nuclear Future* (D2L); articles from japanfocus.org about Fukushima crisis, titles TBA on D2L

- **Sunday, Feb 10**
  - Discussion: Q and A: Final Exam Prep
  - Final Exam

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

**Pre-class paper:**
Due on Monday, Jan 14, this 4- to 5-page paper should examine and assess Hasegawa’s book, *Racing the Enemy*. Your paper should offer a cogent summary of Hasegawa’s main arguments, discuss the kinds of sources and methods he uses to make those arguments, and evaluate the effectiveness of those arguments. While Hasegawa’s book focuses on the end of the war in the Pacific rather than on the atomic bombs more narrowly, you should be sure your paper discusses Hasegawa’s views on the importance of the atomic bombs in ending the war relative to other causes. **Do not** use any outside sources for this paper (books, articles, or websites). This is to be your reading of Hasegawa’s book. Please consult two short excerpts on how to write a critical book review that have been posted to D2L: one by Benjamin, the other by Rampolla.

**Participation:**
Participation is expected from each student during every class. Your participation grade will be determined by the quality of your contributions rather than on quantity alone. Each student will be expected to give at least one brief (five minute) presentation on an assigned reading during the seminar week, and these also will count towards your participation grade.
Final Examination:

Your final exam will take place during our last class session. The exam will consist of a closed-book short identification section, and an open book essay section. A prep sheet for the final examination will be available on D2L no later than the first day of class.

Post-seminar paper:

Due on Monday, March 4, this 10 to 12-page paper should focus on an aspect of the atomic bombing of Japan. While students must use some of the sources we have read in class that are appropriate for their chosen topic, papers should also include the use of several outside sources. A list of possible paper topics will be posted to D2L before our seminar begins. Students may choose topics not on the list only if the professor approves them in advance. Topics must deal significantly with the Japanese experience or Japanese perspectives on the atomic bomb. In other words, they should not focus on exclusively American topics that do not engage at all with the Japanese experiences of the bombings. Students should upload a proposed topic (described in a sentence or two) to the D2L Dropbox no later than the Friday of our on-site seminar. Students should also plan on discussing their topic and research plan with the instructor during the week of our seminar, and are encouraged to email or request an online chat with the professor before or after the seminar week to discuss or ask questions about their topic or paper. Papers should include footnotes and bibliography using appropriate style. A detailed lecture titled “A Guide to Writing Final Papers” will be given during the on-site seminar, followed by a Q&A.

Please note: while the instructor recognizes that deployments, official travel and other work-related issues may require some adjustments to the due date of the final paper for certain individuals, there will not be an opportunity to resubmit papers for higher grades after your initial submission. The instructor will be available to give advice and guidance up until the time you submit the final paper, but you may not “revise and resubmit” once the paper has been graded. Your final paper should represent your best work.

The professor highly recommends the following book, which provides not only models for correct footnote and bibliographic forms, but also useful tips on researching and writing a history paper: Mary Lynn Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing in History, 7th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin’s).

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-class paper</td>
<td>Monday, Jan 14</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>During class sessions</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Sunday, Feb 10</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post-seminar paper</td>
<td>Monday, March 4</td>
<td>35</td>
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NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
Policies and Notices

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

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For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Elyssa Faison

Education
• 2001 Ph.D., UCLA, history
• 1993 M.A., UCLA, history
• 1988 B.A., Oberlin College, Oberlin, Ohio

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs Professor since 2007
• Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Oklahoma

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• Twentieth century Japanese history
• War and memory studies
• Japanese gender and women’s history
• History of labor in Japan

Representative Publications and Presentations
• Sexing Class: Gender and Labor in Korea and Japan, co-edited with Dr. Ruth Barraclough (Australian National University); Routledge Curzon “Women in Asia” series, 2009.

Representative Honors and Awards Received
• University of Oklahoma Research Council Grant (2008, 2010)
• University of Oklahoma Presidential International Travel Fellowship (2007, 2010)
• University of Oklahoma Junior Faculty Research Grant (2002, 2003, 2005)
• University of Oklahoma Presidential Dream Course Award (2004)
• Yale Council on East Asian Studies Japan Travel Grant (2004)
• Northeast Asia Council (NEAC) short-term travel grant to Japan (2004)
• Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship (1996-1997)

Major Professional Affiliations
• Association of Asian Studies
• Social Science History Association
• Midwest Japan Seminar