

[PAAS 103] GLOBAL WARS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Fall 2019

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Course description:



In the past twentieth century, the Asia-Pacific region was engulfed in two global wars: the Asia-Pacific War (1931–1945) and the Cold War (1947–1991). Both wars had considerable, long-lasting impacts on the political, economic, social, and cultural structures of the Asia-Pacific region. This course explores the multifaceted aspects of the two global wars in the twentieth century Asia to help students understand the complex interplay between war and peace, experiences and narratives, remembering and disremembering, and the nation-state and the individual in the politics of war memory. Throughout this course, students will focus on the following key questions:

- *Why did the Asia and the Pacific region become the main battleground in the successive global wars?*
- *What were the impacts of the two wars on different Asian countries at both macro- and micro- levels?*
- *Why do postwar societies keep raising issues regarding the experiences of war and violence through various – political, legal, and cultural – discursive tools?*

By the end of this course, students will have a better understanding not only of the long-lasting and interlinked effects of the successive global wars in Asia, but also of the dynamics and tensions in contemporary international relations surrounding the Asia-Pacific region.

Proposed assignments:

- Regular class attendance and active participation (15%)
- A film review essay (15%)
- Research paper (20%)
- Peer review (10%)
- Midterm & Final Exams (essay questions, each exam 20%, total 40%)

Proposed reading list:

- Dower, John W. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in Pacific War*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2006.
- Yoneyama, Lisa. *Cold War Ruins: Transpacific Critique of American Justice and Japanese War Crimes*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2016.
- Gallicchio, Marc S. *The Unpredictability of the Past: Memories of the Asia-Pacific War in U.S./East Asian Relations*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2007.