

**US-Japan Encounters: War, Trade, and Culture**

*T/Th 3:30-4:50*

*Room THH 214*

*Office hours*

M, W 3:00-4:30 or by appointment

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**Course Description**

This class focuses on how Americans and Japanese have perceived one another throughout their more than 150-year relationship. These perceptions (which include widely held beliefs, myths, and stereotypes) reveal the challenges and possibilities of international communication between the US and Japan. They also expose social, economic, political, and cultural processes internal to the development of each nation. This course, then, studies US-Japan perception as an important element in both international relations and national histories.

World War II, the ultimate conflict between these two Pacific powers, serves as the pivot around which most course readings and discussion will turn. How did the Americans and Japanese view each other before the war? How did these images change during the 1941-1945 hostilities, and what legacies did they have for post-war and more recent US-Japan communication? To answer these questions we will pay close attention to diplomacy as well as the flow of goods, ideas, and people between the two nations. We will also study domestic trends that have had direct influence on the shaping of US-Japan perception. These include politics, economic development, consumption, migration and settlement, racial ideas and practices, and cultural/artistic expression.

**Objectives**

This course will introduce you to the critical significance of **perception** for the history and contemporary predicament of US-Japan relations. Additionally, it encourages an approach to international relations that seeks to understand the historical origins of today's world. Our final goal is to make you familiar with **viewpoints from both sides of the Pacific** and from those people, such as Japanese Americans, who have been connected to the US *and* Japan. To gain an intimate and personal knowledge of contemporary Japanese perspectives, this class is paired with a similar course at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. The IR 376 website is the means through which you will learn about and "talk" to Japanese students, as well as share your opinions and experiences with them. To gain an awareness of perceptions of Japan and the Japanese outside either the US or Japan, this class is also paired with a course at the University of Philippines, Diliman. A three-way conversation between students at USC, Sophia, and UP Diliman will take place in November.

**Required Readings available at USC Bookstore)**

- John W. Dower, *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*, 1986
- Naoko Shibusawa, *America's Geisha Ally: Reimagining the Japanese Enemy*, 2006
- Selected readings to be downloaded *via* internet (Wiki page). Note: There is no readings packet for this class.

## Assignments

We have two major projects, each of which has several components to it, as requirements for this course. The two projects and their respective steps are as follows (each assignment must be inserted on the course webpage as well as handed-in in hardcopy:

### *Project 1: Research Project*

This project requires that you study US-Japan perception as it is formed in everyday life. To do this, you'll need to spend a number of hours observing behavior in a place where perceptions about Japan and the Japanese are conveyed and learned (such as, restaurants, language classes, museums, auto dealerships, etc). This project also involves interviewing a good sample of subjects encountered at such a place. A hand-out with specific information about this project will be provided in early Sept. Following the hand-out, the students are expected to complete the following assignments.

- **Assignment 1 -- Self-profile:** A brief description of yourself (including photos, etc) that will give your classmates at USC and Sophia University a sense of who you are, where you come from, and the geographical, cultural, ethnic, gender, religious, family, etc. contexts that influence your worldview. **One page, single-spaced. Due: September 2.**
- **Assignment 2 – Pre- and Post-observation and feasibility.** Once the site of interest is decided and the group is formed, the students will be investigating their own perception and external information about the site. The assignment consists of two parts, both of which are preparation for the final project. Part A (pre-observation) consists of one half a page to one page write-up about each student's understanding and feelings about the site before going to the site. Part B (post-observation) is a two-page write up of each student's observation and assessment of the research feasibility of the site after he/she engages in one-hour participant observation at the chosen site. **Part A due on September 6 and Part B due on September 11.**
- **Assignment 3—Preliminary interviews and observation:** After preparing for interviews and further participant-observation, each student engages in 3 hours of interviews and observation at the site. After the observation, he/she is to turn into a three-page write up of the observation. **Three pages single-spaced. Due: October 16.**
- **Assignment 4 – Preliminary project write-up:** This should be similar to Assignment 3, but with more hours of participant-observation and interviews, and should be the basis for the group write-up, audio and/or visual product due later. **Four pages single-spaced. Due: November 18.**
- **Assignment 5 – Group Presentation:** Each group will present respective ethnographic analysis of the place (site) it chose using their web space. **20-minute presentation per group. Scheduled: December 2 and 4.**
- **Assignment 6 – Complete group web-page: Complete web-page and a hard copy of the page due on December 11**
- **Assignment 7 – Journal: Self-analysis of pre-project and post-project perception of Japan and the site.** This gives you a chance to revise the points made in Assignment 2. We hope that your assumptions about the site have changed after your observation and analysis. Explain the process of the change by paying attention to the effect that specific parts of this course (reading, assignment, interaction with student, professor, etc.) had on your views. **Two pages single-spaced. Due: Dec. 11.**

## ***Project 2: Sophia Communication Project***

This project consists of communication and discussion with Sophia University students (Tokyo Japan) based on the two common movies that the students watch during the course. Each time, the students will watch a film, engage in on-line discussion with Sophia students based on some common questions, and write-up his/her own assessments of their discussions.

- **Analysis of Film Discussion I:** On Oct. 9th we will screen the film *Rhapsody in August* at a convenient time outside of class. From Oct. 14-28, you will discuss the film with Sophia University students *via* a forum on the course website. You are to write an analysis of US-Japan perception based upon the USC-Sophia student discussion of this film. **Two pages, single-spaced. Due: Oct. 30**
- **Analysis of Film Discussion II:** On Nov. 4 we will screen the film *Lost in Translation* at a convenient time outside of class. From Nov. 5-23, you will discuss the film with students at both Sophia University and the University of Philippines, Diliman *via* a forum on the course website. You are to write an analysis of US-Japan perception based upon the forum discussion of this film. **Two pages, single-spaced. Due: Nov. 25**

## **Examinations**

There will be **two in-class midterms (October 2 and November 13)** during the semester. Each of these will have both essay and short-answer questions that will test to see how well you understand the main points covered in readings, assignments, and lecture/discussion.

## **Grading Breakdown**

	<b><u>% of Total Course Grade</u></b>
Project 1: Ethnographic Project	40
Project 2: Film Analysis Project	20
First mid-term Exam	15
Second mid-term Exam	15
Class Participation (discussion involvement, tardy, etc.)	10

## **Academic Integrity Policy**

There is a zero tolerance for any violation of academic integrity in this course. You should familiarize yourself with the different types of violations and how the university defines them. Consult the Trojan Integrity booklet for detailed information about plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity:

<http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/docs/tig.pdf>

University recommended sanctions for violations of academic integrity is found here:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/gov11.html>

## **Persons with Disabilities**

We will do whatever we can to accommodate students with disabilities. For us to do so, you must register with USC's Office of Disabilities Services and Programs, STU 301, 740-0776.

## Weekly Schedule

### **Week 1**

#### **August 26 (Tue): Introduction**

Readings: None

Tasks: Syllabus distributed, Introductions, Class webpage introduced, Discuss Assignment 1

#### **August 28 (Thu): Perceptions of Japan, and US-Japan relations**

Readings: None

Tasks: Discuss webpage (student web-spaces), and the Ethnographic Project

### ***I. War and Memory***

### **Week 2**

#### **September 2 (Tue): Historical context of US-Japan Relations**

Readings: “Black Ships and the Samurai” (read on website below)

[http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027j/black\\_ships\\_and\\_samurai/core\\_home.html](http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027j/black_ships_and_samurai/core_home.html)

Tasks: Post self-profile (Assignment 1 due), discuss Assignment 2 and Ethnographic Project

#### **September 6 (Thu): Immigration and the Yellow Peril**

Readings: Kurashige and Murray; and “Yellow Peril” at

[http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027j/yellow\\_promise\\_yellow\\_peril/yp\\_core\\_home.html](http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027j/yellow_promise_yellow_peril/yp_core_home.html)

Tasks: Assignment 2 pre-observation note (Part A) due.

### **Week 3**

#### **September 9 (Tue): World War II in the Pacific**

Readings: Dower Ch. 1-3

Tasks: Watch part of film *Know Your Enemy*\*

#### **September 11 (Thu): War Through American eyes**

Readings: Dower Ch. 4-7

Tasks: Assignment 2 (Part B) due, and discuss E-project.

### **Week 4**

#### **September 16 (Tue): Watch Film: *Faces of the Enemy***

Readings: none

Tasks: Discussions on Assignment 3

#### **September 18 (Thu): War Through Japanese eyes**

Readings: Dower Ch. 8-11

Tasks: Discussions on Assignment 3

### **Week 5**

#### **September 23 (Tue): Perception and US Occupation**

Readings: Shibusawa, Introduction, Ch. 1-3

Tasks: Discussions on Assignment 3

#### **September 25 (Thu): Stereotypes in Post-war US-Japan Relations**

Readings: Shibusawa

Tasks: Discussions on Assignment 3

**Changing Image in American Eyes**

**Read Naoko's book.**

**Week 6**

**September 30 (Tue): Watch Film: *Sayonara***

Readings: none

**October 2 (Thu): Mid-term I**

***II. Globalizing Japan and Economic encounters***

**Week 7**

**October 7 (Tue): The Politics of War memories in the U.S.**

Readings: Kohn, add the essay on museums

Tasks: Discussions on Assignment 3

**October 9 (Thu): War memories in Japan: A-Bomb and Tokyo Trial**

Readings: Chang, Sodei, Yaguchi

Tasks: Watch a part of movie *Pride*\*

**\*\*\*Thursday Oct. 9: Special Screening of *Rhapsody in August* – 5:30-7:00\*\*\***

**USC-Sophia Communication: Oct. 14-28, paper due Oct. 30**

**Week 8**

**October 14 (Tue): Japan's economic success**

Readings: Fallows

Tasks: USC-Sophia communication project Begins. Watch a part of *Japan Inc.*

**October 16 (Thu): US-Japan trade war**

Readings: Cohen, Chs. 8 and 9

Tasks: Discuss Sophia communication. Watch a part of *Power without Purpose*

Tasks: Assignment 3 Due

**Week 9**

**October 21 (Tue): Japan corporations buying up the United States**

Readings: Noble; Frank

Tasks: Watch a part of *Who Killed Vincent Chin*

**October 23 (Thu): Revisionism in the U.S. and Japan that can say “no”**

Readings: Katz; Herbig

Tasks: Film 1 communication and discussion

***III. Identity, Culture, Gender, and Soft Power***

**Week 10**

**October 28 (Tue): Reverse migration, identity and ethnicity**

Readings: Tsuda

Tasks: Watch part of film: *Finding Home*

Tasks: Film 1 communication and discussion.

**October 30 (Thu): Americanization of Japanese culture and institutions**

Readings: Konagaya; Traphagan

Tasks: Film 1 write-up due.

**Week 11**

**\*\*\*Tuesday Nov. 4: Special Screening of *Lost in Translation* – 5:30-7:00\*\*\***

**USC-Sophia-UP Diliman Communication: Nov. 5-23, paper due Nov. 25**

**November 4 (Tue): Gender in U.S.-Japan relations**

Readings: Ma; Kelsky

Tasks: Watch a part of *Slaying the Dragon*

**November 6 (Thu): Cool Japan and Exotic Japan**

Readings: McGray

Tasks: Film 2 communication and discussion

**Week 12**

**November 11 (Tue): Guest Speaker on Japanese Anime (Ellen or Mimi)**

Readings: ?

**November 13 (Thu): Midterm II**

**Week 13**

**November 18 (Tue): Discussion on the Ethnographic Project**

Reading: No reading

Tasks: Assignment 4 due

**November 20 (Thu): No Class—Work on Ethnographic Project**

**Week 14**

**November 25 (Tue): No Class—Work on Ethnographic Project**

Tasks: Film 2 Paper Due.

**November 27 (Thu): THANKSGIVING (NO CLASS)**

**Week 15**

**December 2 (Tue): In-class Presentation of Ethnographic Project (Assignment 5)**

**December 4 (Thu): In-class Presentation of Ethnographic Project (Assignment 5)**

**Assignment 6 (Complete web-page and hard copy) due on December 11\*\***

**Assignment 7 (Journal) due on December 11\*\***

## **Required and Suggested Films**

### On Leavey Reserve

**Rhapsody in August (Japan 1991)**  
**Lost in Translation (US 2003)**  
**Who Killed Vincent Chin (US 1987)**  
**Slaying the Dragon (US 1988)**  
**Faces of the Enemy (US 1987)**  
**Inside Japan Inc. (Pacific Century, Part 6 1992)**  
**The Power without Purpose (1990)**

### My personal copy (marked \* on the syllabus)

**Know your Enemy: Japan (1945)**  
**Pride (Japan 1998, Subtitled)**

### Others

**Gung Ho (US 1986)**  
**Rising Sun (US 1993)**

**Mr. Baseball (Japan 1992)**  
**Black rain (US 1989)**  
**Mystery Train (US 1989)**  
**Come See the Paradise (US 1990)**  
**Sayonara (US 1957)**  
**Storoberi Rodo (Strawberry Road, Japan 1991)**  
**Memoirs of a Geisha (US 2006)**  
**The Bridge over the River Kwai (US 1957)**  
**Picture Bride (1994)**

## **Required Readings for Download**

Chang, Maria Hsia and Parker, Robert P. (Winter 2001). Victor's justice and Japan's amnesia: The Tokyo War Crimes Trial reconsidered. *East Asia : An International Quarterly* 19:4; International Module p. 55-83.

Cohen, Stephen D. (1991) Chapter 8 Arguing Japan's Case against the United States. *Cowboys and Samurai: Why the United States is Losing the Industrial Battle and Why it Matters* Harper Collins, pp163-182.

Dower, John. (2001) Graphic Japanese, Graphic Americans: Coded Images in U.S. – Japanese Relations. *Partnership: The United States and Japan 1951-2001* Akira Iriye and Robert A. Wampler, eds. Kodansha International: Tokyo, pp301-333

Fallows, James. (1995) Chapter 4: The Idea of Economic Success. *Looking at the Sun: The Rise of the New East Asian Economic and Political System*. Vintage Books: New York, pp177-240

Frank, Dana. (1999) Chapter7: Deamons in the Parking Lot: Autoworkers and the "Japanese Threat". *Buy American: The Untold Story of Economic Nationalism*. Beacon Press: Boston, pp160-186

Herbig, Paul A. and Robert Milam. (1994) When in Japan, Do as the Japanese Do; When in Rome, Do as the Japanese Do: The Achilles' Heel of Japanese Business Philosophy. *Marketing Intelligence and Planning*. 12:11, pp26-35

Itoh, Mayumi. (1998) Chapter 3: Japanese Perceptions of the United States. *Globalization of Japan: Japanese Sakoku Mentality and U.S. Efforts to Open Japan* St. Martin's Press: New York, pp47-65

- Katz, Richard. (1998) Chapter 13: Beyond Revisionism and Traditionalism: A New Paradigm to Guide Policy. *Japan The System that Soured: The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Economic Miracle*. M.E.Sharpe: London, pp289-317
- Kelsky, Kareny (2001) Chapter 3:Capital and the Fetish of the White Man. *Women on the Verge: Japanese Women, Western Dreams*. Duke University Press:Durham, pp131-201
- Kohn, Richard. (1995). History and the Cultural Wars: The Case of the Smithsonian Institution's Enola Gay Exhibition. *The Journal of American History*. 82:3. p. 1036-1063.
- Konagaya, Hideyo. (Spring 2001) The Christmas cake: A Japanese tradition of American prosperity. *Journal of Popular Culture*; 34: 4, pp. 121-136
- Kurashige, Lon and Alice Yang Murray. (2003). Major Problems in Asian American History, Houghton Mifflin Company. P. 108-116, and 180-185.
- Ma, Karen.(1996) Chapter1: The Myth of the Modern Madame Butterfly. *The Modern Madame Butterfly: Fantasy and Reality in Japanese Cross-Cultural Relationships*. Charles E. Tuttle Company: Tokyo, pp17-36.
- McGray, Douglas (May-Jun 2002) . Japan's Gross National Cool. *Foreign Policy* 130. pp.44-54.
- Minatoya, Lydia Y.(1992) A Family Reunion. *Talking to High Monks in the Snow: An Asian American Odyssey*. HarperCollins: New York, pp87-115.
- Noble, Gregory W. (Summer 1992) Takeover or Makeover? Japanese Investment in America. *California Management Review*; 34:4, pp. 127-147
- Sodei, Rinjiro. (Dec. 1995) Hiroshima/Nagasaki as History and Politics. *The Journal of American History*, 82:3, pp.1118-1123.
- Traphagan, John W and L Keith Brown. (Spring 2002) Fast food and intergenerational commensality in Japan: New styles and old patterns. *Ethnology*; 41: 2, pp. 119-134.
- Tsuda, Takeyuki. "The Stigma of Ethnic Difference: The Structure of Prejudice and "Discrimination" toward Japan's New Immigrant Minority." *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 2, (Summer, 1998), pp. 317-359.
- Yaguchi, Yujin. "War Memories Across the Pacific: Japanese Visitors at the Arizona Memorial." In Marc Gallicchio ed. *The Unpredictability of the Past: Memories of the Asia-Pacific War in U.S.-East Asian Relations*. Duke University Press: Durham, pp. 234-254.