DESCRIPTION:
Japan is a nation that has undergone huge changes in the last 150 years, transforming from a feudal society ruled by warriors, to an expansionistic imperial state, and then to a modern democracy with a pacifist constitution. This course explores how issues of militarism, pacifism, and nationalism have shaped Japanese identity and history.

One event that took place over 70 years ago – the Second World War – looms large over Japan’s current politics and society. This course will explore how postwar Japan has struggled to come to grips with a war that was fought in the name of a “Greater East Asian Co-prosperity Sphere,” yet resulted in millions of deaths throughout Asia and left Japan’s major cities in ruins. The war brought about years of American Occupation and the adoption of a constitution that bans Japan from officially maintaining a military or waging war. Through lectures, group discussions, and student presentations, we will gain a better understanding of how these issues have influenced Japan’s society, its domestic politics, and its relationship with its Asian neighbors. This course is not a traditional history of Japan’s conduct in wars. Rather, it is an interdisciplinary examination of Japan’s war experience and its impact on postwar Japan. This course will trace Japan’s journey from a militaristic autocracy to a pacifist democracy.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
Class sessions will consist of lectures, active group discussions, and student presentations. Assignments for the course consist of weekly responses to each week’s class, short response papers about course-related trips, a final paper, and a final presentation. Assignments will be submitted via Moodle.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

A. Course Participation: 10%
B. Presentation: 20%
C. Mid-term exam: 15%
D. Weekly reading analyses: 20%
E. Research Paper & Presentation (Final Exam): 35%

• Course Participation – 10% - Class discussions are a major part of this course, and all students are expected to share their views in class. Since there is not always enough time for everyone’s voice to be heard, students will also be given an opportunity to write down their opinions of lectures/discussions. Contributions to class discussions should reflect that the student has read the assigned reading for that day and have been attentive during the lecture/discussion.

• Presentation – 20% - Students will choose an academic article or academic book chapter from a list prepared by the professor and handed out on the first day of class. Presentations are scheduled to fit with the general theme of specific dates of the course. Each week, selected students will give a 20-minute presentation summarizing and analyzing the article/chapter. Power point will be used for the presentations and the files should be uploaded to Moodle the evening before the scheduled presentation. The presentation should also include discussion questions to ask the other students.

• Mid-Term Exam – 15% - On the 6th week of the class, there will be an in-term examination. It will be a combination of short answer questions with one short essay. The questions will be related to the major concepts and ideas covered in the previous weeks’ readings and lectures.
• Weekly Reading Analyses - 20% (6 assignments) - After completing a week’s readings, students are required to submit short responses on Moodle (3-4 pages each). The response should analyze major points of the reading and include the student’s opinions, as well as any questions that the reading raised. [Students may choose 6 different readings to respond to, and each response is worth a little over 3% of the course grade.]

• Research Paper & Presentation (Final Exam) - 35% - Each student will be required to write a research paper (about 10-15 pages) about a regional, national, or international controversy involving political activism, Japan’s war remembrance, the U.S. military in Japan, or the military policy of Japan’s government. (For example: regional disputes over museum exhibits or history education, anti-base protests in Okinawa, overseas dispatches of the Self-Defense Forces, anti-Japanese protests in China/Korea, overseas war memorials, etc.) Papers are due three days before the final class, and will be submitted via Moodle. On the last day of the course, students will give 5-minute presentations summarizing their papers. The paper will be 85% of the assignment grade and the presentation will be 15% of the grade. The instructor will provide a list of possible paper topics, but students are also free to suggest papers that fit with their own research interests.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
• Demonstrate an understanding of social scientific approaches to historical memory, national identity, and nationalism
• Express viewpoints on various perspectives of current controversies in East Asia involving the remembrance of World War II
• Evaluate the importance of the pacifist and anti-war movement in postwar Japanese society & politics
• Analyze the domestic and international significance of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
• Integrate historical discussions into an understanding of the current security situation in East Asia, and Japanese political debates over re-militarization
• Construct analytical essays, give power-point presentations, and lead academic discussions.

ATTENDANCE POLICY
Regular class attendance is considered mandatory, according to the Academic Policy Guidelines. Following the attendance policy of IES Abroad Tokyo, attendance of all classes is required, including course-related trips.

The three-hour format for classes makes missing a single class equivalent to missing a full week during a regular semester. Unexcused absences will therefore result in significant grade penalties.

The first unexcused absence will result in a penalty of one-third of a letter grade from students’ final grades; additional unexcused absences will result in a penalty of one letter grade for each additional absence. That is, one missed class turns an A into an A-, two missed classes turns it into a B-, three turns it into a C-, and so on.

An absence is considered “excused” only if it is unavoidable due to documented illness or other health conditions, or for other reasons approved by the instructor in advance. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

CONTENT

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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>CONTENT</th>
<th>ASSIGNMENTS &amp; READINGS</th>
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| Week 2 | Meiji Era Japan – Building a military-centric society  
This lecture discusses how Meiji period leaders created a system of indoctrination that turned Japan into a society centered on supporting the Imperial Japanese military.  


| Week 3 | Gender & War  
Studies of war have traditionally ignored the importance of gender and the perspectives of women. While all lectures and reading selections in the course strive to include various perspectives, this week of the course will devote special attention to gender and war.  
There will also be 2 student presentations.  


| Week 4 | Course-related trip #1: **Women’s Active Museum on War and Peace (Tokyo)**  
This is a museum operated by the Women’s Fund for Peace & Human Rights, a Japanese organization that is dedicated to preserving the memories of Asian women who were forced sexual slavery by the wartime Japanese military.  
Location:  
2-3-18 Nishiwaseda,  
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0051  
AVACO.bld 2F  
Tel: +81 (03) 3202 4633  
| --- | --- |
| Week 5 | Hiroshima & Nagasaki – the Legacy of the Atomic Bombs  
This week will introduce Japanese views of this issue, both in political discourse and in popular culture.  
• Silver, Mark. "Framing the Ruins: The Documentary Photographs of Yamaha Yosuke (Nagasaki, August 10, 1945)." in *Imag(in)ing the War in Japan: Representing and Responding to Trauma in Postwar Literature and..." |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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<th>Week 7</th>
<th>The American Military in Japan: Occupation &amp; Alliance</th>
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Pacifism &amp; the Anti-Nuclear Movement in Postwar Japan</th>
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<td>• Saruya, Hiroe. &quot;Imagining &quot;World Peace&quot;: The Antinuclear Bomb Movement in Postwar Japan as a Transnational Movement.&quot; In Transnational Japan as</td>
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Topics to be covered include the following: the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal, the return of purged politicians to office, the Yasukuni Shrine, and unofficial and official attempts by Japan to reconcile with its former enemies.

The Mid-Term examination will be held this week in class.

This lecture deals with the changes introduced by the American Occupation government of 1945-1952 and the issue of America military bases in Japan.

There will also be 2 student presentations.

This lecture discusses how peace activists in Japan have fought to prevent Japan from re-militarizing and engaging in foreign wars.

There will also be 3 student presentations.
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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Readings</th>
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### Week 11

**Course-related trip #2: The JGSDF Public Information Center (Tokyo)**

The Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF) Public Information Center is a public facility featuring attractions for seeing and feeling modern Japanese military equipment and gear, and for experiencing its activities and training programs through a 3D theater and simulator. This excursion relates to class discussions of present-day attempts to re-militarize Japan and gain public acceptance for a more active military.

**Location:**
Oizumi Gakuen-cho
Nerima-ku, Tokyo
Postal code: 178-0061

From Seibu Ikebukuro Line Oizumi-gakuen Station North Exit, bus for Asaka Station to Zeimu-daigaku-kenkyujo-mae


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**Week 12**

**“Proactive Pacifism” & Military “Normality”**

This week of the course will have the students deliver short presentations on their research paper. It will also discuss recent political and social developments that put Japan closer to participation in war than almost any other period since 1945.

**References**


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The final paper for this course is due at 5PM, three days before the final class (Week 12).
COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:
- Women's Active Museum on War and Peace
- The JGSDF Public Information Center

REQUIRED READINGS:

RECOMMENDED READINGS:
Students may find the following books to be useful supplementary material.