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, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*
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: 10:30-11:45 TuTh, and by appointment, in 327 McKenzie. Email: hanes@uoregon.edu; phone: 6-4837.

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.


Week Two. Competing Modernities.


**Week Three. Visions of Empire.**

January 23. Rising Sun Over the Pacific. Film: “Hidden Internment”

**IRIYE ESSAY DUE IN CLASS.**

Reading: Spector, *Eagle Against Sun*, 93-141.

**Week Four. Attacking the Empire.**

January 28. Turning the Tide of War: Midway and Guadalcanal.


**Week Five. War Without Mercy.**

February 6. The Valley of Darkness.

Reading: Spector, *Eagle Against Sun*, 252-364.

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

February 11. Film: “The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On”
February 13. **MIDTERM EXAMINATION (IN CLASS).**

Review Dower for midterm.

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

February 18. From Rising Sun to Setting Sun. Film: “Oba, the Last Samurai”

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

February 25. Fire Bombs. Film: “Grave of the Fireflies”
February 27. Assault and Annihilation: From Okinawa to the A-Bomb.

Reading: Spector, *Eagle Against Sun*, 532-566.
Complete Sledge, *With the Old Breed*, 159-320.

Week Nine. Capitulation and Occupation.

March 4. Embracing Defeat!? Film: “Our Job in Japan”
March 6. After Empire. Film: “Unreturned Soldiers from Malaysia/Thailand”

SLEDGE ESSAY DUE IN CLASS.

Reading: Begin Research Project (for end-of-term exam).

Week Ten. Legacies of War.

March 11. Textbooks and Nationalism.
A Class Discussion.

Reading: Complete Research Project (for end-of-term exam)

The end-of-term exam is a take home test. Half of the test will consist of individual research projects; the other half will consist of questions on class material since the midterm. The final exams must be sent electronically to the instructor (hanes@uoregon.edu) by 15:00 on Tuesday, March 18.