

Occupiers and Occupied in Post-World War II East Asia

(HIST 286)

Spring 2007, MW, 10–11:35 and F 10-10:40

DE 210, Kalamazoo College

Instructor: Dennis Frost

Email: dfrost@kzoo.edu

Office: Dewing 303 B

Office Phone: (269) 337-7055

Office Hours: MW, 11:40-1; F, 11-1; and by appointment

Course Description

How does one country occupy another? What is it like to live in a society under foreign occupation? By exploring the post-World War II occupations of Japan, Okinawa, and both north and south Korea, we will seek to address these questions and understand how this period of occupation shaped—and still today, continues to affect—East Asia and its people in both positive and negative ways. We will also give attention to the ways in which the goals and attitudes of the occupiers, particularly those from the US and the USSR, influenced the region. In our comparative study of these occupations we will draw from the rich English-language archive of primary and secondary materials, including historical studies, memoirs, government and military documents, as well as works of fiction, cartoons, and film.

Course Goals

- 1) Familiarize ourselves with the historical facts and developments of this period in East Asia.
- 2) Think historically and understand the relationships between the past and the present.
- 3) Develop and improve research, writing, and analytical skills.
- 4) Get a sense of “how to do history.”
- 5) Gain an appreciation for the positive benefits of cultural difference.

Course Requirements

- 1. Class Participation:** I will expect everyone to assume an active role in the class. In order to participate at your best, you will need to be prepared by completing readings and any other assignments before arriving. Everyone should strive for *consistently helpful participation* in both class and small group discussions. Helpful participation does not necessarily mean talking all the time or giving the “right” answers, but rather refers to one’s willingness to raise questions and give attention to others’ comments and the overall trends and themes of the discussion. The goal for all of us is to help keep the class discussions relevant, interesting, and beneficial. A significant portion of your grade will be determined by your active participation in class. At several points you will be asked to submit short written comments related to various films or other class activities; these short commentaries will also be a factor in determining your overall participation grade. Please also note that I reserve the right to give reading quizzes if it becomes clear that preparation is lacking.
- 2. Reaction Postings:** You will be required to post (online, using Moodle) a total of 10 reaction postings (out of a possible 20 or more). I will post discussion topics or questions relevant to the assigned readings. The reaction posting must address at least one of these questions or issues in a structured response. These should include supporting examples/details from the readings and demonstrate some analysis on your part as well. The should also be clearly written with minimal errors. You are also encouraged to include your own questions or points. **You should post no later than 8AM on the day that the reading is assigned for.** Worth up to 3 points each for a total of 30 points.
- 3. Midterm Exam:** This will be an in-class exam addressing the readings and lectures up to that point. It will include short-answer and essay questions. Worth 40 points.
- 4. Research Paper:** A 10-page, double-spaced, interpretive research paper that accounts for 50 points of your overall course grade.
 - a) Topics: Aside from focusing on a narrow (in other words, feasible) aspect of the postwar occupations in/of East Asia, topics are open. I will provide a list of broad topics, which can be adjusted to fit individual interests (pending my approval).

- b) Sources: At least 5 outside sources (i.e., not assigned in class), only one of which can be a website. You should include as many primary sources as possible.
- c) Due Dates: you will need to turn in a topic and a preliminary bibliography (at least 5 sources) on Monday, April 30 (6th week). This will be worth 5 points of the total grade for the paper. The final paper will be due in class on Friday, May 25 (9th week).
- d) Evaluation: The final paper will be evaluated primarily on content, including strength and support of argument, as well as evidence that you did some outside research for the project. Proper use of grammar, citations, and bibliographic techniques will also be a factor.

5. Final Exam: This exam will be given during the scheduled exam time (Tuesday, June 5, 1-4PM). It will include short answer and essay sections focusing on material from the second half of the course and a section with cumulative essays addressing materials from throughout the course. Worth 40 points.

Required readings

Unless otherwise noted, all readings are required and should be completed by the time you arrive for class on the days they are assigned. The following books are available at the bookstore:

1. John W. Dower. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*
2. Sarah Bird. *The Yokota Officers Club: A Novel*
3. Allan R. Millett. *The War for Korea, 1945-1950: A House Burning*
4. Charles K. Armstrong. *The North Korean Revolution, 1945-1950*

Other *required* readings for the course will be available online (via Moodle or internet links provided), as E-reserves through the library, or distributed as handouts. Note that these readings are just as important as the books and will play a key role in our class discussions. If you cannot bring printouts of all readings to class, you should at least plan to bring your reading notes with you to refer to during our various sessions. There will also be required in-class and out-of-class films and websites to view. In addition, I have developed a personal collection related to the various postwar occupations in East Asia and am willing to share it with students who might be interested in using these materials, especially for specific research projects.

Assistance Outside Class

Office Hours: Please take advantage of my office hours; I'm there to help about matters of any kind. If the times are difficult for you, call or see me after class to set up an appointment.

Disabilities: I am committed to fostering a learning environment where all students can perform at their best. If you have a physical or learning disability and feel that it may impede your performance, please contact me as soon as possible at the beginning of the term so that I can make reasonable accommodations. Such disabilities should also be registered with the Dean of Students' Office (x7209).

Grade Distribution

(Out of 200 total points)

Participation	40
Reaction postings (3 points each)	30
Midterm Exam	40
Research Paper (Topic and Annotated Bibliography worth 5 points)	50
Final Exam	40

****Please Note the Following Policies****

1. **Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is expected, so you do not receive points for coming to class.
 - For *each* absence beyond 3 misses you will lose 2 points from your overall participation grade. More than 7 absences will result in a failing grade in the course.
 - Because tardiness is a distraction for the entire class, I also reserve the right to lower final grades for habitual lateness.
 - In the case of any absence, you are responsible for finding out what you missed, including lecture materials or in-class announcements.
2. **Assignments:** All assignments are fixed unless changes are announced.
 - Although I will usually offer reminders in class, you are responsible for checking the syllabus and knowing when an assignment is due.
 - Assignments are due in class on the day that they are listed as assigned on the syllabus.
 - Deadlines are absolute. Late assignments will be penalized with a loss of points (you will lose roughly a letter grade per day). No assignments will be accepted after 5 days.
 - Papers will not be accepted by e-mail, unless I agree beforehand.
 - Failure to turn in *all* of the assigned papers will result in a failing grade in the class.
3. **Honor Code:** Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated and will be addressed in accordance with school policies. I will be as clear as possible in explaining how and what materials you need to cite. If you have questions or concerns about these matters, please see me as soon as possible.

Unit 1 Introductions and Orientations

Week 1

M 3/26 Introductions: What Exactly is “Occupation”?

W 3/28 Rise and Fall of Empire: Japan before Surrender I

Read: Edward Said, “Introduction” in *Orientalism*, pp. 1-28 (library reserve)

F 3/30 Rise and Fall of Empire: Japan before Surrender II

Read: Gregory Smits, *Making Japanese* Chapter 8 (online, link on Moodle)

Week 2

M 4/02 Planning Ahead: American and Allied Preparations for Occupation

Read: Hugh Borton, *American Presurrender Planning for Postwar Japan*;
AND John Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, chapter 6 (p. 203-224)**Unit 2 Remaking Japan: The Allied Occupation of Japan**

W 4/04 The Allied Occupation of Japan: An Overview

Read: Dower

F 4/06 Occupation in Everyday Life

Read: Dower, Chapters 1-5

Week 3

M 4/09 A New (and Improved?) Imperial Democracy

Read: Dower, Chapters 7-11

W 4/11 Constitutional Democracy from Above and Below

Read: Dower, chapters 12-13

Unit 3 From Dumping Ground to Keystone: The U.S. Occupation of Okinawa

F 4/13 Islands in Between: Okinawa before 1945

Read: Alan Christy, “The Making of Imperial Subjects in Okinawa”;
AND Ikemiyagi Sekihô, “Officer Ukuma”

Week 4

M 4/16 Separate and Not Equal

Read: David Tôbaru Obermiller, “The Resurrection of Okinawan Identity under U.S. Occupation”

W 4/18 Reversion and Beyond

Read: Selection from Kensei Yoshida, *Democracy Betrayed: Okinawa Under U.S. Occupation* (library reserve)

F 4/20 Library Workshop

****Assignment:** Occupation Source Treasure Hunt

Week 5

M 4/23 **Midterm Exam**, in class

Unit 4 Literary Views of Okinawa and Japan

W 4/25 “Base towns” in Okinawa

Read: Michael S. Molasky, “A Base Town in the Literary Imagination” (library reserve)

F 4/27 Glimpses of the Occupiers I: Okinawa

Read: Takara Ben, “Dream Revelations”;
AND Kishaba Jun, “Dark Flowers”;
AND begin Sarah Bird, *Yokota Officers Club*, (ideally up through p. 179)

Week 6

M 4/30 A Glimpse of the Occupiers II: Japan

Read: Finish Bird
****Assignment:** Paper Topic and Annotated bibliography due

Unit 5 The Forgotten Occupation: The U.S. in South Korea

W 5/02 A Kingdom Eclipsed: Korea before Liberation

Read: Richard Kim, “Lost Names”;
AND Allan R. Millett, *The War for Korea, 1945-1950*, Chapter 1

F 5/04 Overview: South Korea post-Liberation and pre-War

Read: Millett

Week 7

M 5/07 Collaborators, Communists, and Nationalism in a “New Korea”

Read: Millett, Chapters 2-6

W 5/09 Things Fall Apart: Resistance, Uprisings, and War

Read: Finish Millett;
AND skim Cumings, *Origins of the Korean War*, Vol. 2, chapter 7

Unit 6 Embracing Revolution: The Soviet Occupation of North Korea

F 5/11 Overview: North Korea post-Liberation and pre-War
Read: Charles Armstrong, *North Korean Revolution*, Chapter 1

Week 8

M 5/14 (Re)Making Koreans
Read: Armstrong, Chapters 2-6

W 5/16 The People, the State, and Kim Il Sung
Read: Finish Armstrong

F 5/18 The Korean War and Its Aftermath: A Korean View
 Class to be rescheduled to view film

Week 9

M 5/21 The Korean War and Its Aftermath: An American View
 In class: American TV show, *MASH*; discussion of film and show

Unit 7 Democracy through Occupation: Inherent Inconsistencies?

W 5/23 Hypocritical Heroes: “Liberating” Asian Women
Read: Katherine H. S. Moon, “Resurrecting Prostitutes and Overturning Treaties: Gender Politics in the ‘Anti-American’ Movement in South Korea” (library reserve)
AND selections from *Babysan* comic.
 In class: Informal presentations on research

F 5/25 We the People: Drafting Constitutions
****Assignment:** Research Paper Due
 In class: Documentary film *Reinventing Japan* and informal presentations on research

Week 10

M 5/28 NO CLASS: Memorial Day

W 5/30 Policing Democracy: Censorship, Surveillance, and Remilitarization
Read: Dower, Chapter 14
 In class: Informal presentations on research

F 6/01 The Past in the Present: Legacies of Occupation
Read: Dower, Chapter 17 and epilogue
 In class: Informal presentations of research

***FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 1-4 PM**