Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Letters and Science

Militarism & Fascism in Japan
History 600

Fall 2007  Professor Louise Young
Friday 1:00-3:00  O.H. Wed. 1:30-2:30 and by appt.
5255 Humanities  5123 Humanities; Mailbox 5038
263-1829; louiseyoung@wisc.edu

Course description
Though fascism was a powerful force in 1930s Japan, there was no single or unified fascist movement. Rather, there were many fascisms, with different programs, different agents, different sites of action. Though the various goals of this multi-dimensional movement were often at odds with one another, what fascism shared was a consciousness of overwhelming crisis and a conviction that radical, fundamental transformation was needed to break out of the deadlock. The goal of the course is to better understand the relationship between crisis in the realms of economy, society, and polity and the turn to fascism—why it was that political and cultural elites saw fascism as the solution to the multi-fronted crisis of the early 1930s.

The following required readings have been ordered for purchase at the University Book Store:

IENAGA Saburo, The Pacific War (Pantheon, 1978)
John W. Dower, War Without Mercy (Pantheon, 1986)
Michael A. Barnhart, Japan Prepares for Total War (Cornell, 1987)

All other readings are available on the Class website at Learn@ UW.

Requirements
- read weekly assignments
- one-page electronic memo posted on class list by 4 pm Thursday (15%)
- read weekly posts of class members
- participate actively in class discussion (15%)
- in small groups (2 or 3 students), prepare discussion questions for one class session (15%)
- 15-20 page final paper (40%)
- participate in student conference (15%)

Class schedule
September 7  introduction
Read: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, Part III--
“Imperial Japan from Ascendancy to Ashes”, pp. 139-225. (WS)
September 14  
the fifteen year war  
Read: IENAGA Saburo, The Pacific War, all (UBS)

September 21  
economic crisis and autarky  
Read: Michael Barnhart, Japan Prepares for Total War, pp 17-49, 64-114, 198-273 (UBS)

September 28  
the new order in Asia  
*Paper proposal due

October 5  
NO CLASS  
Individual conferences to discuss paper topics.  
*Begin Peattie reading  
*Revised proposals due 10/12

October 12  
the military  
Read: Mark Peattie, Ishiwara Kanji and Japan’s Confrontation with the West (Princeton, 1975), pp. 3-308  
*Revised proposal due

October 19  
NO CLASS  
Research period: Bibliographies due 10/26

October 26  
agrarian fascism  

November 2  
race, war, and propaganda  
Read: John W. Dower, War Without Mercy, pp 1-72, 191-290. (UBS)

November 9  
intellectuals and the state  
W. Miles Fletcher, “Intellectuals and Fascism in Early Showa Japan,” Journal of Asian Studies, 39.1 (Nov. 1979), 39-63; Louise Young, Japan’s Total Empire (Berkeley, 1998), pp 241-303; Chalmers Johnson, An Instance of Treason (Stanford, 1990), pp. 1-59, 114-139 (WS)

November 16  
culture of Japanese fascism
Read: Alan Tansman, ed., The Culture of Japanese Fascism (Duke, forthcoming), essays by Brandt, Aso, Skabeland, Gerow, Cornetz, Schattschneider (WS)

November 30  
*defining “Japanese” fascism*


December 7  
Student Conference I
**Class will run longer, 1-4 pm**

December 14  
Student Conference II
**Class will run longer, 1-4 pm**