

History 283: Historical Memory

Seminar Meetings: Thursday, 3:30-5:30, Humanities 5255

Instructor: Charles Kim

Office: Humanities 4122

Office Hours: Mondays, 2:00-3:30 and by appointment

Email: ckim45@wisc.edu

Phone: 263-1831

Historical memory is everywhere. We encounter it in movies and TV programs, such as *Lincoln* and *Mad Men*. We also encounter it in national holidays and public monuments, such as Thanksgiving and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Museums, magazines, and comic books are just a few other ways through which we remember key events from history. By definition, historical memories are about the past, but they are more interesting for what they tell us about the present age. More specifically, local communities, regions, and entire national societies invest considerable time and effort in remembering their histories, and these remembrances reveal a great deal about their collective identity, political beliefs, and future aspirations. This seminar explores multimedia historical memories of World War II/the Asia-Pacific War in modern America and East Asia. Pearl Harbor, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the “comfort women” will be among the specific historical tragedies that we will examine. Student assignments include blog postings, short essays, and a group project.

Course Objectives:

- 1) Learn what historical memory is and why it matters.
- 2) Learn about many of the key topics pertaining to historical memory in East Asia.
- 3) Take part in informed, collegial, and productive discussions.
- 4) Improve on your ability to convey ideas in writing, oral presentations, and other formats.

Required Texts:

Keiji Nakazawa, *Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima* (San Francisco: Last Gasp, 2004).

Joshua D. Pilzer, *Hearts of Pine: Songs in the Lives of Three Korean Survivors of the Japanese “Comfort Women”* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Both books will be available on reserve at College Library. All other readings will be available in pdf format on E-Reserves. To access, use this link:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/reserves/students.html#overview>

Course Requirements:

1) Attendance & class participation: 20%

Because class participation is a significant portion of your final grade, attendance in lecture and discussion is mandatory. Get into the habit of reading the required readings and giving yourself enough time to think and raise questions about them. This is the basic level of preparation that I expect from you for each of our meetings so that we can engage in quality discussions.

2) Weekly blog postings: 20%

The course blog is an important part of this seminar. Each week, you will be posting a blog entry about the weekly reading. I have three specific requirements for the blog postings: (1) that you identify the main point (or points) given by the author in each reading; (2) that you contribute an intelligent and pertinent response to the reading(s) of the week; and (3) that you read and engage with the postings of your seminar-mates, either in your own post or by commenting on several of the other entries each week.

Blog entries should be 250 to 400 words in length and must be posted by 7 pm on Wednesday nights, or else they will be considered late. Your top ten posts will go toward your final grade. The URL is: <http://memoryeastasia.edublogs.org/>.

3) Lead blogger: 5%

For one week this semester, you will serve as the lead blogger. Your duties are twofold. First, you will post the first blog entry for your week in response to the weekly reading(s), no later than Monday, 12 pm. Second, in seminar meeting, you will give a brief (5-7 minutes) presentation in which you identify the main point(s) of the weekly reading(s), discuss their significance, and raise 3-5 questions based on your reading of the blog posts, as well as your own intellectual curiosity.

4) Memory talks: 5%

We will start each of our sessions with roughly two “memory talks.” For memory talks, you will look at one recent example from the past year or so. Newspaper/magazine feature articles, films, TV series, fiction, museum exhibits, local/national commemorations, and other types of media and mnemonic practice are all fine. So are examples that are not from the history of East Asia.

You will give two over the course of the semester. PowerPoint is not at all required, but if you would like to show some images, please let me know at least 24 hours in advance so I can bring a laptop and projector.

- 5) Family Memory essay (5-6 pages, due Oct. 3): 15%
- 6) *Letters from Iwo Jima* essay (5-6 pages, due Nov. 14): 15%
- 7) Group Project and Presentation (format TBD, due Dec. 16): 20%

Course Regulations:

- 1) Please come to seminar on time and stay until the end. Unexcused absences, tardiness, and departures may have a detrimental effect on your final grade, so do your very best to not have any.
- 2) Late assignments will receive a deduction of 5 points for every late day.
- 3) Laptops and tablets may only be used during lecture for course-related reasons, such as note-taking and referring to course readings. And, as a courtesy to your fellow students, your TA, and myself, please turn off your mobile phones before class starts so that we can maintain a focused learning environment.
- 4) Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any assignment for this course. It's perfectly fine to draw on academic work done by others, as long as you cite their work. However, it's unacceptable to use other people's work, while giving the impression that it is your own original work. For more on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, see the Writing Center's "Writer's Handbook":
- 5) <http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuotingSources.html>.

Academic Accommodations for Students

Please let me know at the start of the semester if you have a need for an accommodation in his course. If you have any questions about this or require any assistance, feel free to contact me or the McBurney Disability Resource Center.

A Note on the Syllabus

I intend to stick closely to the schedule below, but, as we progress through the course, I may make some adjustments in readings and assignments. If I do so, it will be to improve the learning experience. I will do my best to make adjustments in as democratic a manner as possible, and to let you know ahead of time.

Course Schedule:

Sept. 5 - Preliminaries

Sept. 12 – What is Historical Memory?

Create an account on Edublogs and email me your user name and the email address that is linked to the account.

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, *The Past within Us: Media, Memory, History* (London: Verso, 2005), 1-32.

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (New York: Beacon Press, 1997), 108-140.

Carol Gluck, "Operations of Memory: 'Comfort Women' and the World," in *Ruptured Histories: War, Memory, and the Post-Cold War in Asia* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press), 47-77.

Sept. 19 – Family Memories

Maurice Halbwachs, *On Collective Memory* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992), 37-40, 46-83.

Alice Yang Murray, *What Did the Internment of Japanese Americans Mean?* (Boston: Bedford/St Martin's, 2000), 3-26.

FILMS:

A Family Gathering (dir. Lise Yasui & Ann Tegnell, 60 min., 1989)

History and Memory (For Akiko and Takashige) (dir., Rea Tajiri, 32 min., 1991)

Both films will be available on reserve at College Library.

Sept. 26 – National Memories: Postwar Japan

John Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2000), 19-84

Carol Gluck, "The 'End' of the Postwar: Japan at the Turn of the Millennium," in *States of Memory* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2003), 289-314.

Oct. 3 – National Memories: Postwar America & Pearl Harbor

Geoffrey M. White, “Moving History,” in *Perilous Memories* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2001), 267-295.

Emily S. Rosenberg, “Remembering Pearl Harbor before September 11, 2001,” in *The Unpredictability of the Past* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2003), 15-48.

FAMILY MEMORY ESSAY DUE IN SEMINAR

Oct. 10 – Atomic Bomb Memories (1)

Keiji Nakazawa, *Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima* (San Francisco: Last Gasp, 2004).

Ferenc M. Szasz & Issei Takechi, “Atomic Heroes and Atomic Monsters: American and Japanese Cartoonists Confront the Onset of the Nuclear Age, 1945–80,” *Historian* 69:4 (Winter 2007), 728-752.

Oct. 17 – Atomic Bomb Memories (2)

Lisa Yoneyama, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory* (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press, 1999), 42-65.

Mike Wallace, *Mickey Mouse History and Other Essays on American Memory* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1996), 269-318.

Oct. 24 – New Perspectives on the War

Lisa Yoneyama, “For Transformative Knowledge and Postnationalist Public Spheres: The Smithsonian *Enola Gay* Controversy,” in *Perilous Memories: The Asia-Pacific Wars* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2001), 323-347.

David Palmer, “Korean Hibakusha, Japan’s Supreme Court and the International Community: Can the U.S. and Japan Confront Forced Labor and Atomic Bombing?,” *Japan Focus*, February 20, 2008.

FILM: *Letters from Iwo Jima* (dir. Clint Eastwood, 141 min., 2006)

This film will be available on reserve at College Library.

Oct. 31 – “Comfort Women” (1)

Yun Doo Ri, “If Only My Father Let Me Go To School,” in *Silence Broken: Korean Comfort Women* (Parkersburg, Iowa: Mid-Prairie Books, 1999), 165-196.

C. Sarah Soh, “The Korean ‘comfort women’ tragedy as structural violence,” in *Rethinking Historical Injustice and Reconciliation in Northeast Asia: The Korean experience* (New York: Routledge, 2007), 15-35.

FILM: *The Murmuring* (dir. Pyŏn Yŏngju, 98 min., 1995)

This film will be available on reserve at College Library.

Nov. 7 – “Comfort Women” (2)

Joshua D. Pilzer, *Hearts of Pine: Songs in the Lives of Three Korean Survivors of the Japanese “Comfort Women”* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Nov. 14 – Open Topic

SECOND ESSAY ON *LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA* DUE IN SEMINAR

Nov. 21 – Open Topic

Nov. 28 – Thanksgiving

Dec. 5 – Group Project Preparation

Dec. 12 – Group Project Preparation

Dec. 16 – Group Project Presentation – 5:05-7:05 p.m. (location TBA)