

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

**Fascism in Japan**  
**History 600**

Spring 2004  
Weds. 11:00-1:00  
2121 Humanities

Professor Louise Young  
O.H. Wed. 1:30-3:30  
5123 Humanities; Mailbox 5038  
263-1829; louseyoung@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)  
Ben-ami Shillony, Revolt in Japan (Princeton, 1973)  
Kerry Smith, A Time of Crisis (Harvard, 2001)  
Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms, and Nationalisms  
(University of Chicago, 2002)

All other readings are available in a course pack on sale at the Humanities Copy Center, 1650 Humanities Bldg, 263-1803. The copy center is open Monday through Friday 7:45-11:45 and 12:30-4:10. Pay in check or cash.

**Requirements**

- Read weekly assignments
- One-page electronic memo posted on class list by 4 pm Tuesday (15%)
- Read weekly posts of class members
- Participate actively in class discussion (15%)
- Jointly lead discussion for one class session (15%)
- 10-12 page final paper (40%)
- Participate in student conference (15%)

## Class schedule

- January 21 *introduction*
- January 28 *the fifteen year war*  
Read: IENAGA Saburo, The Pacific War, all (UBS)
- February 4 *culture of fascism I*  
Read: Alan Tansman, ed, The Culture of Japanese Fascism, essays by Tansman, Doak, Torrance, Tansman, Brandt, Aso, Skabelund, Gerow, Baskett (CP)
- February 11 *culture of fascism II*  
Read: Alan Tansman, ed, The Culture of Japanese Fascism, essays by Takenaka-O'Brien, Reynolds, Locklyer, Schattschneider, Cornyetz, Reichert, Vincent, Dorsy (CP)
- February 18 *agrarian crisis*  
Read: Kerry Smith, A Time of Crisis, pp. 1-134, 269-352 (UBS)
- February 25 *agrarian fascism*  
Read: Thomas Havens, Farm and Nation in Modern Japan (Princeton, 1974), pp. 3-14, 163-180, 190-274; Louise Young, Japan's Total Empire (Berkeley, 1998), pp. 352-411 (CP)
- March 3 *fascism debate*  
Read: George Wilson, "A New Look at the Problem of 'Japanese Fascism'", Comparative Studies in Society and History, 10.4 (Jul., 1968), 401-412; Barrington Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy (Boston, 1966, 1993), pp. 228-313; Maruyama Masao, Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics (Oxford, 1963), pp. 1-24, 157-176; Peter Duus and Daniel Okamoto, "Comment: Fascism and the History of Pre-War Japan: The Failure of a Concept," Journal of Asian Studies, 39.1 (Nov., 1979), 65-76; R.P. Dore and Tsutomu Ouchi, "Rural Origins of Japanese Fascism," in Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan (Princeton, 1971), pp. 181-210. (CP)
- March 10 *research methods* \*\*meet at Memorial Library\*\*  
Due: paper proposal
- March 24 *the new order in Asia*  
Read: Peter Duus, Ramon Myers, Mark Peattie, eds., The Japanese Wartime Empire (Princeton, 1996), 3-70, 189-242; Harry Benda, "The Japanese Interregnum" in Imperial Japan and Asia (New York, 1967) (CP)

- March 31      *inside the co-prosperity sphere*  
Read: Ethan Mark, Appealing to Asia: Nation, Culture, and the Problem of Imperial Modernity in Japanese-occupied Java, 1942-45, pp. 1-149, 280-387 (CP)
- April 7        *military radicalism*  
Read: Ben-ami Shillony, Revolt in Japan (Princeton, 1973), all. (UBS)
- April 14      *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; James Crowley, "Intellectuals as Visionaries of the New Asian Order," in Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan (Princeton, 1971), pp. 319-375; Chalmers Johnson, An Instance of Treason (Stanford 1990), pp. 1-59, 114-139. (CP)
- April 21      *the special attack forces: kamikaze*  
Read: Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, Kamikaze, Cherry Blossoms, and Nationalisms (University of Chicago, 2002), all. (UBS)
- April 28      Student Conference: Session I
- May 5         Student Conference: Session II