For China, World War II began when Japan invaded it in 1937. Only after the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked America’s Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor in 1941 did the United States enter World War II. In between these two dates was the start of the war in Europe when Germany invaded Poland in 1939. Arguably, there were several wars that eventually merged into what we commonly refer to as World War II. This course focuses on one of those wars – the war in Asia and the Pacific. It considers that war in the larger context of World War II, discusses the various socio-economic and political factors that led to the war in Asia and the Pacific, examines the nature of that horrific conflict, and assesses its legacy for all those involved.

Course Requirements

Student grades will be determined according to the following criteria:

Quizzes (4) ..............................................................50% (100 points)
Final Examination......................................................50% (100 points)

Note well:

• Professor Wei can be contacted at william.wei@colorado.edu and Madeline Gorrell, Teaching Assistant, can be contacted at madeline.gorrell@colorado.edu.

• There are four quizzes, each worth 25 points. Quizzes are multiple-choice examinations, with some identification questions. Students will have 1 point added to their cumulative quiz grade for each critical thinking sheet they complete and submit in class. Past experience indicates that the addition of critical thinking points can raise a student’s score by as much as a half-letter grade.

• Final examination is to be written in ink and in large bluebooks. The examination is
worth 100 points, divided between identifications (40%) and an essay (60%). Except for extraordinary reasons, there will be no make-up quizzes and examinations in this course.

Readings

Students are to read the following books in their entirety:


Lectures, Readings, Films, and Exercises

Aug. 27 – Introduction to the course

Aug. 29 – World War II Reconsidered

   Mitter, Forgotten Ally, Prologue
   Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, introduction

Aug. 31 – 19th-century Imperialism

   Mitter, Forgotten Ally, chapter 1
   Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, chapter 1

Sept. 3 — Labor Day, no class

Sept. 5 – Imperialism in China: The Unequal Treaty System

   Mitter, Forgotten Ally, chapter 2
   Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, chapter 2

Sept. 7 – Rebellion, Reform, and Revolution in China
Sept. 10 – Emergence of Chinese Communism

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 3
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 3

Sept. 12 – Imperialism in Japan: The Coming of Commodore Perry

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 4
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 4

Sept. 14 – Emergence of Japanese militarism

Sept. 17 – Quiz 1 (entire class period)

Sept. 19 – Isolationism in America

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 5
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 5

Sept. 21 – Washington Conference, 1921-22

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 6
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 6

Sept. 24 – From strict neutrality to undeclared war: America on the eve of WWII

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 7
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 7

Sept. 26 – Mukden and Nomohan Incidents

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 8
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 8

Sept. 28 – Second Sino-Japanese War, July 7, 1937

Oct. 1 – Chinese and Japanese strategies and tactics in China

Oct. 3 – Film: *The Battle of China* (1944), in class

Oct. 5 – *The Battle of China*, conclusion and critique, in class
Oct. 8 – Hotta, *Japan 1941* and **Quiz 2**

Oct. 10 – Film: *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), part 1, in class

Oct. 12 – *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), part 2, in class

Oct. 15 – *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), part 3, in class

Oct. 17– *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), conclusion and critique

Oct. 19 – Daniels, *Prisoners of Without Trial*


  Mittle, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 10  
  Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 10


  Mittle, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 11  
  Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 11

Oct. 26 – “I will run wild and win victory upon victory” . . . Admiral Yamamoto

  Mittle, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 12  
  Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 12

Oct. 29 – Film: *Midway* (1976), part 1, in class

  Mittle, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 13  
  Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 13

Oct. 31 – *Midway* (1976), part 2, in class

  Mittle, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 14  
  Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 14

Nov. 2 – *Midway*, conclusion and critique, in class

  Mittle, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 15  
  Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 15

Nov. 5 – Guadalcanal Campaign and **Quiz 3**

Nov. 7 – Sledge, *The Old Breed*
Nov. 9 – Film: *Peleliu, 1944: Horror in the Pacific* (1991), in class

Nov. 12 – *Peleliu*, conclusion and critique, in class

Nov. 14 – Okinawa: the last battle

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 16  
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 16

Nov. 16 – “Divine Wind”

**Nov. 19-23: Fall break and Thanksgiving Holiday, no classes**

Nov. 26 – Debate and Nation-Building exercise explained

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 17  
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 17

Nov. 28 – Debate: Resolved, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justified. Successful debaters will have 5 points, unsuccessful debaters will have 2 points, and judges will have 1 point added to their final examination grade.

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 18  
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 18

**Submit completed Nation-Building exercise in class**

Nov. 30 – Presentation of select Nation-Building exercises in class

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 19  
Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 19

The most effective Nation-Building exercise will have 5 points added to their final examination grade. Runner-ups will have three points added to their final examination grade. Failure to complete the exercise will result in an Incomplete for their course grade.

Dec. 3 – Occupation of Japan

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, Epilogue  
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapters 20

Dec. 5 – Chinese Civil war and national liberation movements in Asia

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapters 21
Dec. 7 – Cold War in Asia

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapters 22

Dec. 10 – Korean War: The Forgotten War

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapters 23

Quiz 4

Dec. 12 – Conclusion of the course and final examination review session

**Final Exam is from 1:30-4:00 pm, Wednesday, December 19, 2018**

**University Rules**

**CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR**
Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu; 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the Honor Code Office website.

Accommodation for Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the Disability Services website. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Medical Conditions under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our
community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, just let the instructor know a week in advance.