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.

• 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 two 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:


Note well:

All of the readings are on 4-hour reserve at the Norlin Library.

**Lectures, Readings, Films, and Exercises**

Jan. 15 – Introduction to the course: World War II Reconsidered


Jan. 22 – Imperialism in Japan: The Coming of Commodore Perry

Jan. 24 – Chinese nationalism and Japanese militarism

Jan. 29 – Chinese communism

Jan. 31 – American Isolationism

Feb. 5 – From strict neutrality to undeclared war

**Quiz 1**

**Readings:**
- Mitter, Forgotten Ally, Prologue to chapter 5
- Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, Introduction to chapter 5

Feb. 7 – Film: *The Battle of China* (1944), in class

Feb. 12 – Mukden and Nomohan Incidents
Feb. 14 – Chinese and Japanese strategies and tactics in China

Feb. 19 – Significance of the War of Resistance

Feb. 21 – Hotta, Japan 1941

Feb. 26 – Film: Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970), part 1, in class

Feb. 28 – Film: Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970), part 2, in class

March 5 – Film: Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970), part 3, in class

March 7 – Japanese and American strategies and tactics in the Pacific

March 12 – “I will run wild and win victory upon victory” . . . Admiral Yamamoto

Quiz 2
Readings:
Mitter, Forgotten Ally, chapters 6-9
Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, chapters 6-9

March 14 – Daniels, Prisoners Without Trial

March 19 – Midway (1976), see at home

March 21 – Guadalcanal Campaign

March 25-29 – Spring Break, no classes

April 2 – Sledge, The Old Breed

April 4 – Film: Peleliu, 1944: Horror in the Pacific (1991), in class

April 9 – Okinawa: the last battle

Quiz 3
Readings:
Mitter, Forgotten Ally, chapters 10-15
Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, chapter 10-15

April 11– Debate

Resolved, the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justified. Successful debaters will have 5 points, unsuccessful debaters will have 3 points, and judges will have 1 point added to their final examination grade.
April 16 – Occupation of Japan

Submit completed Nation-Building exercise in class

April 18 – Presentation of select Nation-Building exercises in class

The student with the most effective Nation-Building exercise will have 5 points added to the student’s final examination grade. Runner-ups will have three points added to their final examination grade.

April 23 – Chinese Civil war

Quiz 4
Readings:
Mitter, Forgotten Ally, chapters 16-Epilogue
Spector, Eagle Against the Sun, chapters 16-23

April 25 – Korean War

April 30 – End of empires in Asia

May 2 – Conclusion of the course: Legacy of WWII

University Rules

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.
**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.