For China, World War II began when Japan invaded the country 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 Germany invaded Poland in 1939. These conflicts merged into what is commonly referred to as World War II.

This course focuses on the war in Asia and the Pacific. It places this war in the larger context of World War II, discusses the socio-economic and political factors that led to the war, examines the nature of the war, and assesses the war’s legacy for 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 Gelin Huang at Gelin.Huang@colorado.edu.
- There are four quizzes, each worth 25 points. Quizzes consist of multiple-choice questions and short identification questions.
- Students will have 1 point added to their cumulative grade for each critical thinking exercise they complete and submit in class. Past experience indicates that the addition of critical thinking points can raise a student’s grade by as much as a half-letter, so an A- is raised to an A.
- 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, Films, and Exercises**

Jan. 13 – Introduction to the course

Jan. 15 – World War II Reconsidered

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

Jan. 17 – Nineteenth-century Imperialism

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

**Jan. 20 — Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, no class**

Jan. 22 – Imperialism in China: The Unequal Treaty System

   Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 2
   Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 2
Jan. 24 – Rebellion, Reform, and Revolution in China

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

**Jan. 25 – Chinese New Year: Year of the Rat**

Jan 27 – Emergence of Chinese Communism

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

Jan. 29 – Imperialism in Japan: The Coming of Commodore Perry

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 5

Jan. 31 – Emergence of Japanese militarism

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 5

Feb. 3 – Isolationism in America

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 6

Feb. 5 – Washington Conference, 1921-22

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 6

Feb. 7 – Mukden and Nomohan Incidents

**Feb. 10, Monday – Quiz 1**

Feb. 12 – Second Sino-Japanese War, July 7, 1937

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

Feb. 14 – Chinese and Japanese strategies and tactics in China

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

Feb. 17 – Film: *The Battle of China* (1944), in class
Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 9
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 9

Feb. 19 – *The Battle of China*, conclusion and critique, in class

Feb. 21 – From strict neutrality to undeclared war: America on the eve of WWII

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

Feb. 24 – Hotta, *Japan 1941*

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

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

Mar. 2 – *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), part 3, in class

Mar. 4 – *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970), conclusion and critique

**Mar. 6, Friday – Quiz 2**

Mar. 9 – Japanese and American strategies and tactics in the Pacific

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

Mar. 11 – “I will run wild and win victory upon victory” . . . Admiral Yamamoto

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

Mar. 13 – Daniels, *Prisoners Without Trial*

Mar. 16 – Trial by Questionnaire

Mar. 18 – Battle of Midway: Turning Point of the War in the Pacific

Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 13
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 13
Mar. 20 – Guadalcanal Campaign

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

**Mar. 23 to Mar 27 – Spring Break, no classes**

Mar. 30 – Sledge, *With the Old Breed at Peleliu and Okinawa*.

Apr. 1 – Film: *Peleliu, 1944: Horror in the Pacific* (1991), in class

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

Apr. 3 – *Peleliu*, conclusion and critique

**Apr. 6, Monday – Quiz 3**

Apr. 8 – Okinawa: the last battle
Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, chapter 16
Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapter 16

Apr. 10 – “Divine Wind” phenomenon

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

Apr. 13 – Debate and Nation-Building exercise preparation

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

Apr. 15 – 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.

Submit completed Nation-Building exercise in class
Apr. 17 – Presentation of select Nation-Building exercises in class

The most persuasive Nation-Building proposal will have 5 points and the two runner-ups will have three points added to their cumulative grade score. Failure to submit the exercise will result in a course grade of Incomplete.

Apr. 20 – Occupation of Japan

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

Apr. 22 – Chinese Civil war

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapters 20 and 21

Apr. 24 – National liberation movements in Asia

Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*, chapters 22 and 23

**Apr. 27, Monday – Quiz 4**

Distribution of the Final Examination Review Questions

Apr. 29 – Conclusion of the course

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**UNIVERSITY RULES AND GUIDELINES**

**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.

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. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the Student Code of Conduct.

PREFERRED STUDENT NAMES AND PRONOUNS

CU Boulder recognizes that students' legal information doesn't always align with how they identify. Students may update their preferred names and pronouns via the student portal; those preferred names and pronouns are listed on instructors' class rosters. In the absence of such updates, the name that appears on the class roster is the student's legal name.

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 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.

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, intimate partner abuse (including dating or domestic violence), stalking, or protected-class discrimination or 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.

See the campus policy regarding religious observances for full details.