

HIST 381 Japan and the Atomic Bomb

Schedule

(Cross-listed as SISP 381, EAST 384, DANC 384, AMST 381)

Japan and the Atomic Bomb

Monday 1:10-4:00, PAC 136

Tuesday 7:30 - 9:30, Freeman Center for East Asian Studies, Seminar Room

Jan. 26, Mon.

1. Introductory Class: Nuclear War, From Science Fiction to Fact

Written Assignment:

Write two pages, double-spaced, describing your interest in the atomic bombs & Japan.

Readings:

Frederick Soddy, *The Interpretation of Radium and the Structure of the Atom*,

Chapter XI. (Available on Google Books)

H.G. Wells, *The World Set Free: A Story of Mankind*. All.

(Available on Google Books)

Abe Spitzer, *Diary*, pp. 13-18.

[http://www.mphpa.org/classic/COLLECTIONS/CG-](http://www.mphpa.org/classic/COLLECTIONS/CG-ASPI/01/Pages/ASPI_Gallery_01.htm)

[ASPI/01/Pages/ASPI_Gallery_01.htm](http://www.mphpa.org/classic/COLLECTIONS/CG-ASPI/01/Pages/ASPI_Gallery_01.htm)

“Groves- Oppenheimer Transcript”, 6 August 1945.

<http://www.dannen.com/decision/opp-tel.html>

White House Press Release Announcing the Bombing of Hiroshima, 6 August 1945.

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/truman/psources/ps_pressrelease.html

Albert Camus, “8 August 1945,” article from Resistance newspaper, *Combat*, later published in Camus’s collection of essays, *Between Hell and Reason*. Also in Kai Bird, ed., *Hiroshima’s Shadow*, pp. 260-61. ERes

Articles on atomic bombs, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, from 7 to 10 August 1945. Pay special attention to *NY Times* pieces by W. H. Lawrence, and be certain to read his “Giant Pillar of Purple Fire,” *NY Times*, 9 August 1945. (All are available on Proquest, via Olin Library Home Page; go to “Indexes and Databases,” and then “New York Times Historical Backfile”; the other newspapers are also available on this site. Use the function to pull up a specific date. There are numerous articles; look for the ones you believe are most important.)

The Guardian, pieces from Aug. 7 & Aug. 9, 1945.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/1945/aug/07/fromthearchive1>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/1945/aug/09/japan.fromthearchive>

Short film to be seen in class:

Eric Barnouw, *Hiroshima/Nagasaki*, August 1945.

Jan. 27, Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Looking each other, remembering each other, moving to rest, moving to almost sleep, partnering, looking / being looked, sliding up and down (partnering in distance), and crawling.

Discussion:

Susan Sontag "Talk of the Town"

http://www.msgr.ca/msgr-3/talk_of_the_town_susan_sontag.htm

John Berger "The first fireball" The Guardian (June 29, 2002)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/jun/29/usa.japan>

Feb. 2, Mon.

2. Victims' Experience of the Atomic Bombs:

Readings:

Michihiko HACHIYA, *Hiroshima Diary*, all.

Homer Bigart, "A Month After the Atomic Bomb: Hiroshima Still Cannot Believe It," *New York Herald Tribune*, 5 September 1945. Blackboard Course Document.

Shogo YAMAHATA, Photographer's notes in English "The Day After the Nagasaki Bombing" (Nagasaki, 10 August 1945.)

http://www.peace-museum.org/yamahata_frame/frames.htm

(Click on links in left column and see photos also)

Journal Entry No. 2 Due Feb 2

Please describe what most surprised you, and how and why.

Photos to be seen in class:

Panoramic Photo of Post-Bomb Hiroshima

http://www.peace-museum.org/galleryJPM/gallery_hayashi/index.htm

Hiroshima Teishin Hospital

<http://www.peace-museum.org/welcome.htm>

Feb 3, Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Review; Eiko touching, pushing, pulling a moving body; moving with anticipation; to be touched – follow, ignore, resist–, looking at a moving body that anticipates touch outside intervention; offering sustainable intervention.

Video and picture to be seen in class:

NHK, *Hibausha's* drawings. Part 1

Book to be seen in class

Unforgettable Fire: Pictures Drawn by Atomic Bomb Survivors

Feb. 9, Mon.

3. Representations I (expressing inexpressible)

Readings:

John Whittier Treat, "Introduction" and "Atrocity into Words" in *Writing on Ground Zero* pp.1-43. ERes.
Tamiki HARA, "Summer Flower" (first published in Japan in 1947) in *The Crazy Iris*, pp. 37-54. ERes.
Tamiki HARA, "The Land of Heart's Desire" (first published in Japan in 1951) in *The Crazy Iris*, pp. 55-62. ERes.
Yōko ŌTA, "Fireflies" (first published in Japan in 1953) in *Fire from the Ashes*, pp. 85-111. ERes.

Optional Reading:

Robert Jay Lifton. "Invisible Contamination," and "A-Bomb Disease" in *Death in Life* pp. 57-163. ERes.

Assignment:

Choose two separate passages from each of the three assigned pieces of literature (Hara and Ōta) to read aloud in class. The passages can be as short as one sentence or up to a whole paragraph. Choose passages that you feel come directly from the writer's body and life to your own. Practice reading those passages aloud to friends or another audience before coming to class.

Journal Entry No. 3 Due Feb. 9:

Copy your choices from the above assignment and respond briefly to each section. Write as if you are in front of the author and are invited to explain why and how you responded to a particular passage. Be precise. Refer to Treat, Lifton, or both, as appropriate.

Feb 10, Tue. Lab

Movement Study:

Kindergarden, standing, moving, resting, sleeping, landslide, paint peeling, wind,

Reading Aloud:

Projecting, framing one's presentation with silence and some movements.

Feb. 16, Mon.

4. Representations II (who can speak about?)

Readings:

Kenzaburō ŌE, *Hiroshima Notes*, (first published in Japan in 1965) "Introduction," (pp. 7-11), Chapters 3-5, (pp. 78-132) and Epilogue (pp. 168-183).
Kyōko HAYASHI, "Ritual of Death" (first published in Japan in 1975) in *Nuke-Rebuke*, pp. 21-57. ERes.
Kyōko HAYASHI, "Two Grave Markers" (first published in Japan in 1975) in Kyoko & Mark Selden, eds., *The Atomic Bomb Voices*, pp. 24-54. ERes.
Kyōko HAYASHI, "The Empty Can," (first published in Japan in 1977) *The Crazy Iris*, pp. 127-143. ERes.

Optional Readings:

Davinder Bhomik, "Temporal Discontinuity in the Atomic Bomb Fiction of Hayashi Kyōko," in *Ōe and Beyond: Fiction in Contemporary Japan*, pp. 58-88. ERes.

Wolfgang A. Luchting, "Hiroshima, Mon Amour, Time, and Proust," (1963, available on JSTOR).

Film to be seen before class:

Alain Resnais, *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (1959).

Journal Entry No. 4 Due Feb. 16:

For this week's journal entry, imagine you are writing a letter to either Ōe or Hayashi. Mention what about a work most moved you. Reflect on not only his or her works but also refer to other writings or the film. Feel free also to mention the previous week's readings if appropriate.

Feb. 17, Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Slime, Maggot

Videos to be seen in class:

Kaneto SHINDŌ, *Children of the Atomic Bomb* (1952).

Feb. 23, Mon.

5. Representations, III (Resisting Forgetfulness)

Readings:

Keiji NAKAZAWA, *Barefoot Gen, vols. I & II*. (First published in Japan in 1973-1974)
"Barefoot Gen, the Atomic Bomb and I: The Hiroshima Legacy" (Nakazawa Keiji interviewed by Asai Motofumi, Translated by Richard H. Minear) *Japan Focus*: (2007) <http://www.japanfocus.org/products/topdf/2638>

Kyōko HAYASHI, "From Trinity to Trinity." (First published in Japan in 2000).
Blackboard Document.

Paul Tibbets interviewed by Studs Terkel (2002)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2002/aug/06/nuclear.japan>

Eiko Otake, "Kyōko HAYASHI Writes in Sustained Mourning" Blackboard Document.

Film to be seen before class:

Shōhei IMAMURA, *Black Rain* (1989)

Journal Assignment

After you have read and viewed all the assigned materials, choose to write a letter to Nakazawa or to Hayashi. If your letter is to Hayashi and you would like me to do so, I will translate and deliver it to her. Please review your previous journal entries and think carefully what you would really want to tell her or him about what you are learning from their work and this course. Even if you have already wrote a letter to Hayashi, you could continue to do so.

Feb 24, Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Boxing, passive, active, actively passive, slender, partner work, remembering, forgetting,

To be seen in class:

Delicious Movement '07, '08. Final Project Highlight

Mar. 2, Mon.

6. *Developing the Bomb & Military Precedents, I.*

Readings:

Andrew Rotter, *Hiroshima: The World's Bomb*, pp. 1-176.

Discussion:

What do we remember and what did we forget?

Mar 3, Tue. Lab.

Class visit: Rice Show

Movement Study: Survey

Mar. 23, Mon.

7. *Science and Moral Responsibility: Oppenheimer's Story*

Readings:

Jim Ottaviani, *Fallout*

Kai Bird & Martin Sherwin, *American Prometheus*, pp. 1-350.

Charles Thorpe, "Violence and the Scientific Vocation," *Theory, Culture & Society*, Vol 21, No. 3, 2004. Blackboard Document.

Video to be seen before class:

Jon Else, *The Day After Trinity* (1980)

March 24, Tue. Lab.

Films to be seen in class:

Ishirō HONDA, *Godzilla, King of the Monsters* (1954)

Kaneto SHINDŌ, *Lucky Dragon* (1954)

Optional Reading:

Chon Noriega, "Godzilla and the Japanese Nightmare: When 'Them!' Is U.S.," (15 pp., 1987, available on JSTOR).

March 30, Mon.

8. *How the Bomb Came to Be Used, Part I: Truman's Story.*

Readings:

J. Samuel Walker, *Prompt & Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs Against Japan* (1997), pp. 1-110.

John Chase, "Unconditional Surrender Reconsidered" (21 pp.; 1955; available on JSTOR).

Brian L. Villa, "The U.S. Army, Unconditional Surrender, and the Potsdam Declaration" (26 pp.; 1976; available on JSTOR).

March 31, Tue. Lab.

Video to be seen in class:

Jon Else, *Wonders are Many: The Making of Dr. Atomic* (2007)

April 6, Mon.

9. *How the Bomb Came to Be Used, Part III: The Documentary Record*

Readings:

"The Atomic Bomb and the End of World War II: A Collection of Primary Sources," available at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB162/>
Read documents 1-77 (read PDF files, not just summaries).

Henry Stimson, "The Decision to Use Atomic Bomb," *Harpers Magazine*. Blackboard Course Document.

April 7, Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Reviews, tree, glow, broom, age, weather, prune, landslide

April 13, Mon.

10. *The Atom Bombs and the Question of Japanese Surrender*

Readings:

Sadao ASADA, "The Shock of the Atomic Bomb and Japan's Decision to Surrender: A Reconsideration." (JSTOR)

Herbert P. Bix, "Japan's Delayed Surrender: A Reinterpretation," in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp. 80-115.

Sumio HATANO, "The Atomic Bomb and Soviet Entry into the War," in Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, ed., *The End of the Pacific War*, pp. 95-112. Blackboard Course Document

Tsuyoshi HASEGAWA, "The Atomic Bombs and the Soviet Invasion," in Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, ed., *The End of the Pacific War*, pp. 113-144. Blackboard Course Document

April 14. Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Water, River, Logging

April 20, Mon.

11. *The Atomic Bomb in Historical Memory, Part I.*

Readings:

Barton J. Bernstein, "The Struggle Over History: Defining the Hiroshima Narrative," in Philip Nobile, ed., *Judgment at the Smithsonian*, pp. 127-256. Blackboard Course Document.

John W. Dower, "The Bombed: Hiroshimas and Nagasakis in Japanese Memory," in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp. 80-115.

J. Samuel Walker, "History, Collective Memory, and the Decision to Use the Bomb," in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp. 187-199.

Michael J. Hogan, "The Enola Gay Controversy: History, Memory, and the Politics of Presentation," in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp. 200-232.

Rinjiro SODEI, "Hiroshima/Nagasaki as History and Politics" (JSTOR)
Martin J. Sherwin, "Hiroshima as Politics and History," (8 pp.,1995, JSTOR)

Video to be seen in class:

Hellfire: A Journey from Hiroshima (1986)
Dr. Atom continued

April 21, Tue. Lab.

Movement Study:

Egg

Video to be seen in class Film to be seen in class:

NHK, *Hibausha's* drawings. Part 2

Paintings to see in class:

Hiroshima Panels by Iri and Toshi MARUKI
<http://www.aya.or.jp/~marukimn/english/genbakuE.htm>

Reading:

John Dower. *War, Peace, and Beauty : The Art of Iri and Toshi Maruki*, pp. 34-47. ERes.

April 27, Mon.

12. *The Atomic Bomb in Historical Memory, Part II.*

Readings:

Barton J. Bernstein, "Introducing the Interpretive Problems of Japan's 1945 Surrender: A Historiographical Essay on Recent Literature in the West," and "Conclusion: The Interpretive Dialogue, 1989-2005, and Various Proposals for Understanding the Ending of the War and Why and How Japan Surrendered" in Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, ed., *The End of the Pacific War*, pp. 9-64. And 228-240. Blackboard Course Document
Paul Boyer, "Exotic Resonances: Hiroshima in American Memory," in Michael J. Hogan, ed., *Hiroshima in History and Memory*, pp. 143-167.
Peter Schwenger & John Whittier Treat, "America's Hiroshima, Hiroshima's America," (20 pp., 1994, available on JSTOR).

Video to be seen before class:

Steven OKAZAKI, *White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (2007)

April 28. Tue.

Final Project sharing I.

May 4, Mon.

13. Final Project sharing II

Readings:

Sadako KURIHARA, *When We Say 'Hiroshima' Selected Poems*. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan. vii-xv. ERes.

Optional Reading:

Richard H. Minear, "Translator's Introduction." *When We Say Hiroshima*.

Journal Entries on Movement Study. Blackboard Course Document

Eiko: *Sustained Mourning and Musing on Time*. Blackboard Course Document

Other articles in "An Attempt to Connect Monday and Tuesday"

Journal Entry No. 13 Due May 4

In your last journal entry, please share with us your "AHA" moments and further reflection. Upon reading "journal excerpts on movement study," please remember, reflect, update your thoughts and findings in movement study. Share your thoughts on Tuesday presentation. Refer to articles in "An attempt to connect" if it suits you.