

Department: AASI-HIST

Course No: 3531 [268]

Credits: 3

Title: Japanese Americans and World War II

Contact: Nancy Shoemaker

Content Area: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Diversity: CA4 Non-International

Catalog Copy: 3531 [268] Japanese Americans and World War II (Also offered as HIST 268.) Either semester. Three credits. Buckley Internment of Japanese Americans from three perspectives: origin and development of the Japanese American community; internment experiences; and aftermath of the unlawful eviction, evacuation and internment.

Course Information: The course objectives are: 1. Introduce students to Japanese American history with special emphasis on the Internment and its aftermath. 2. Introduce students to Internment literature 3. Enable students to critically review Internment literature. 4. Broaden students' understanding of the legal and constitutional history of the United States as well as the history of minorities and racism in the United States. Course Requirements: Four critical book reviews (3 to 4 pages); special essay critique of a documentary film or major motion picture dealing with Internment; final comprehensive essay examination. Major Topics: 1. Asian/Japanese Immigration - 19th Century to the Early 20th Century. 2. Formation and development of the Japanese American community. 3. Hawaii's Japanese. 4. The Decision to Relocate the Japanese Americans. 5. Camp life. 6. Unmatched Courage: Japanese Americans at War. 7. Japanese Latin Americans and Japanese Canadians experiences. 8. Resistance. 9. The Redress Movement. 10. Coming to Terms with the Internment.

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: "Japanese Americans and World War II" contributes to students' understanding of the diversity of human cultures by providing insights into Japanese American history. In doing so it provides a larger narrative of the many different peoples who compose the ethnic mosaic of the United States. It places particular emphasis on the Japanese American immigrant experience by tracing Japanese migration and settlement in Hawaii and the Americas beginning in the 19th century. This approach helps students understand the era in which they live as the flow of peoples between Asia and the Americas continues to transform the United States and the countries of the Western Hemisphere. It places particular emphasis on the legal and immigrant history of the United States. This approach helps to turn our traditionally Anglo-centric historical viewpoint inside out, beginning with the nineteenth century arrival of Japanese immigrants. The course also is timely in its exploration of how racism has divided American society. Comparative in orientation it considers how the historical treatment of Japanese Americans is both different and similar from the treatment of other groups of color in the United States. Furthermore it examines the role of government in America, and particularly in the lives of Asian immigrants. Finally, this course aims to develop students' moral and ethical consciousness by raising questions concerning the rights of immigrants, citizenship, social justice, human rights and gender and class. An important focus is the legal and constitutional legacies of internment for future generations who may encounter racism and the loss of civil liberties. 1. The student will become more articulate by being exposed to some of the essential literature dealing with internment and its aftermath. Articulation will also be enhanced since the structure of the course is characterized to a large degree by question and answer components in each lecture. 2. The different types of readings (scholarly

monographs, documents, and historical fiction) and critiques of visual media will provide students with intellectual breadth and versatility. 3. The need to provide critiques of books and visual materials will enhance students' critical judgement. 4. A considerable part of the required readings contains vivid personal testimonies of Japanese Americans. Thus, we see their experiences through their own eyes. In this way, students acquire moral sensitivity surrounding the internment issue. 5. The various approaches help students understand the era in which they live, as the war on terrorism reminds us of the need to protect civil liberties and promote due process. 6. Fundamentally, the course raises the consciousness of the diversity of human culture as it pertains to the experience of Japanese Americans. Other course components dealing with consciousness of diversity include the Asian American Studies Institute's annual Day of Remembrance (an annual activity focusing on Japanese American Internment) and a Japanese American food demonstration.

CA1 Criteria: Investigations and historical/critical analyses of human experience. This course requires students to critique works of scholarship and visual studies by means of critical book reviews and essays. By providing students with an array of scholarly tools and assignments, students will be able to make critical and informed judgements about the social, legal, economic and moral nature of internment.

CA4 Criteria: Develop an understanding of and sensitivity of issues involving human rights and migration. The required assignments and lectures are intended to demonstrate the centrality of race, gender, class, ethnicity and human rights in the development of American society. Students are also required to attend the Day of Remembrance and the Japanese food demonstration. The readings which contain the personal testimony of Japanese Americans is yet another way to develop an understanding and sensitivity to issues of human rights.