

History 501r

**Special Topics in History (3 hrs)
Occupation of Japan, 1945-1952**

Fall 2009

Instructor:

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Office Hours: MWF 10:00- 12:00 or email.

Communication: "To enhance student services, the University will use your UTC email address (firstname-lastname@utc.edu) for communications. (See <http://onenet.utc.edu> for your exact address.) Please check your UTC email on a regular basis. If you have problems with accessing your email account, contact the Help Desk at 425-2676.

Objective: Student will read widely in the literature of the occupation, and then choose and complete an in-depth research project in a timely fashion, resulting in a completed 25-page paper on or before November 23. In the following week the student will defend orally the thesis of the paper with two members of the history department.

Research Paper Guidelines

1. Overview

Your paper will be more than a term paper. It should use both primary and secondary sources and following current standards in documentation in footnotes and bibliography. It will be about 25 pages in length, and will be the basis for the course grade subject to the deadlines below.

Topics will include any issue or problem in the American military occupation of Japan from September 1945 to the Peace Treaty in 1952. As a graduate level project, it should show evidence of critical thinking (not just repeating what you find in secondary sources) and independent interpretation of events. Originality of thinking and clarity of writing will be an important part of my assessment of your work.

The first draft should be ready by **November 9th**. Two copies of the final paper are due **November 23rd** to permit reading before the oral exam, TBA.

2. Paper Process

You must complete each and every stage in the long process of finding a topic, researching, drafting, and polishing an extended essay. Experience shows that the only way to do this is for me to establish deadlines and a checklist for each stage; otherwise, you will be allowed and tempted to procrastinate until it is too late to do a good job. There will be a deduction (1/2 final grade) for any stage not completed in time.

a. Individual Conference (August 25)

We will meet to discuss possible topics and potential sources. Further suggestions will be via email. A contract or required graduate school forms will be completed.

b. Proposal (September 14th)

Following up on the conference and initial reading of John Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, , you should write at least two paragraphs about your project, indicating the general area of interest and specific questions to be answered, along with potential sources that you have discovered so far. If you decide to change your topic before September 28, you must report via email or schedule another conference to discuss it. After September 28 you must stick with your choice.

c. Preliminary Bibliography (September 28)

You should have identified at least five secondary sources and some primary sources. The primary sources, usually government documents or personal memoirs of the occupation, should be your most important ones for writing the paper. I will examine your sources and make suggestions where needed. See the Rampolla *Pocket Guide to Writing in History* for the accepted format for bibliographies.

d. Paper Thesis (October 12)

You should be far enough along in your research to articulate the position or argument you will make in the paper. This is a point of view, not just a general theme, and it should be emailed to me. If there appears to be a lack of focus, I may ask you to come in for another conference to help construct a position that is supported by your findings, or I will respond via email.

e. Outline (October 26)

To construct a logical, orderly argument, you should have an outline which will introduce, illustrate, defend, and conclude your thinking. By outlining major issues, sub points, supporting evidence, you will be more effective. The outline should be typed and numbered, and reach to the paragraph level if possible.

f. First Draft (November 9-11)

You should email your first draft. This should not be a “rough” draft with obvious spelling and grammatical errors...use spell check and ask friends to read the rough draft and use their suggestions and corrections. By turning in a paper that is your best at this time, my suggestions and corrections will be more useful and lessen the work needed for the final essay. But I stress that this should not be a “rough” draft.

g. Final Essay (November 23)

Based on my comments, you should revise and polish your paper where necessary. You must address the comments made on the first draft in both format and content. Two copies must be ready for reading unless other arrangements have been made with me.

h. Oral Defense (Last week of semester, TBA)

You will explain your research program; any difficulties encountered, and defend your thesis as presented in the paper. You will have about twenty minutes to summarize the main points of your paper, including, sources, and points of interpretation. This will be followed by Q&A. This final meeting will not exceed one hour. The professors participating will then discuss and determine the course grade.