The Second World War started in East Asia in 1937, not in Europe two years later as normally thought. This course will cover all the major events in the Pacific theater of the War: the Japanese invasion of China, the Pearl Harbor attack, crucial battles such as Midway, Guadalcanal, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, and the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Close attention will be paid to the objectives and strategies of all the warring nations, the United States and her allies, Japan (including Korea, Manchukuo, and Taiwan), and China, and their internal policies and developments in fighting the war.

Attempts will be made to analyze the problems of the Pacific War in the context of WW II as a global conflict, examining all the important war-time international conferences: Casablanca, Quebec, Cairo, Teheran, Dumbarton Oaks, Yalta, and Potsdam.

I. Reading List

II. The basic format of the course will consist of lectures, discussion sessions, and students’ oral presentations of their chosen topics. (The lists of topics will be distributed in class.) Discussions will be based upon the readings above and other subjects, which will be specifically assigned for particular weeks. There will be several quizzes on the reading and lectures. The final semester grade will be based upon the following:

Hour Examination (7th week) ................................................. 100 points
Attendance ............................................................................. 100 points
Discussion Participation, Quizzes, and Oral Reports........... 100 points
Final Examination (Th., Dec. 13. 10-12:45pm) ............... 300 points

Total: 600 points
Make-up examination (for the hour examination) will be given on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 3:00pm, in LA 207.

III. Class Attendance Is Required. It is important that students attend all the lectures and student oral reports because they will contain a great deal of information that is not found in the readings. Irregular attendance may result in dismissal from the class or in the denial of permission to take the final examination. Those students who have to miss more than four (4) lectures are advised not to take this course. Tardiness and other interruptions will not be tolerated. Attendance does not simply mean the physical presence in the classroom. Students are expected to concentrate on lectures and reports, to take notes, and to engage in class discussion. No electronic devices of any kind will be allowed in class.

IV. Office and Office Hours.

Liberal Arts Building, Room 131
TR, 7:30-9am
and by appointment

Weekly office hours are set aside to provide students with the opportunity to talk with the instructor, usually on a walk-in basis. Students are encouraged to ask questions about class topics and oral reports, to extend the class discussion, or to get to know the instructor better.