

090:294:H3 "Hiroshima & Nagasaki: Lessons from the Atomic Bombings of Japan"
Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar, Spring 2021 syllabus

Instructor

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Seminar Description

In the seminar, we will read and discuss primary sources such as eyewitness accounts, long and short fiction, poetry, and documentary films by and about survivors of the 1945 U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. We will also study scholarship theorizing atomic bomb literature as a literature of trauma. Our goal is to examine from different perspectives the ways atomic warfare and its consequences have been represented and understood. All readings are in English translation.

Grading

Assignments: 50% (13x4pts)

Discussion leader: 25% (5x5pts)

Final paper: 25%

Total: 100%

Required Texts

1. Ōe Kenzaburō, ed. *The Crazy Iris* (Perseus, 1985) ISBN 9780802151841
2. Richard Minear, *Hiroshima: Three Witnesses* (Princeton, 1990) ISBN 9780691008370
3. Kurihara Sadako, *When We Say Hiroshima: Selected Poems* (Michigan, 1999) ISBN 9780939512898
4. Ibuse Masuji, *Black Rain* (Kodansha, 2012) ISBN: 9781568364179
5. John Whittier Treat, *Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb* (Chicago, 1995) ISBN 0226811786

Learning Goals

The seminar satisfies the Core Curriculum goal WCd; t, u, v. The final paper will be assessed to determine the degree to which students in the seminar are able to write in accordance with the practices of the disciplines under study.

Academic Integrity Policy

Violations of academic integrity will be punished by loss of all points for the assignment in which the violation occurred. Punishable violations include the following: submitting assignments that are not your own work; using the work of others without acknowledging the source (plagiarism); denying others access to information or material; and facilitating other student's violations of academic integrity. See full statement of Academic Integrity Policy: <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>

S21 Schedule (revised): "Hiroshima & Nagasaki" Interdisciplinary Honors Seminar – with Groups

Date	Focus on Text	Film	Author/Theory	Assigned for next class
Mondays 4:30-7:30	4:30-5:50		6:10-7:30	
1/25 Monday	Orientation to Hiroshima/Nagasaki		Eyewitness accounts: fiction & testimonials	Ōe, <i>The Crazy Iris</i> , 63-84 Oda "Human Ashes" & PDF selected testimonials. Treat, <i>Writing Ground Zero</i> , 45-81 "Genre and Post-Hiroshima Representation."
2/1 Monday	Group 1 Discuss responses to Oda "Human Ashes" & testimonials		Group 2 Apply theory in "Genre and Post-Hiroshima Representation" to readings	Minear, <i>Hiroshima: Three Witnesses</i> , 45-113 Hara "Summer Flowers" & 21-40 Hara Tamiki: Translator's Introduction." Film: "Hiroshima, City of Peace" (1993) 30 mins.
2/8 Monday	Group 3 Discuss responses to Hara Tamiki "Summer Flowers"	Discuss film "Hiroshima, City of Peace"	Group 4 Discuss author Hara Tamiki based on Minear, "Translator's Introduction"	Ōe, <i>The Crazy Iris</i> , 37-62 Hara, "Summer Flower" & "Land of Heart's Desire." Treat, <i>Writing Ground Zero</i> , 125-153 "Hara Tamiki and Documentary Fallacy." Film: "Hiroshima, the Legacy" (1993) 45 mins.
2/15 Monday	Group 5 Discuss responses to Hara "Summer Flower," "Land of Heart's Desire"	Discuss film "Hiroshima, the Legacy"	Group 1 Discuss author Hara Tamiki based on Treat, "The Documentary Fallacy"	Minear, <i>Hiroshima: Three Witnesses</i> , 153-273 Ōta "City of Corpses"; 117-151 "Ōta Yōko: Translator's Introduction" & "Preface."

				Film: "After the Cloud Lifted" (1996) 35 mins.
2/22 Monday	Group 2 Discuss responses to Ōta "City of Corpses"	Discuss film "After the Cloud Lifted"	Group 3 Discuss author Ōta Yōko based on Minear, "Translator's Introduction" & "Preface"	Ōe, <i>The Crazy Iris</i> , 85-111 Ōta "Fireflies." Treat, <i>Writing Ground Zero</i> , 199-226 "Ōta Yōko and the Place of the Narrator." Film: "Rain of Ruin I" (1995) 70 mins.
3/1 Monday	Group 4 Discuss responses to Ōta "Fireflies"	Discuss film "Rain of Ruin I"	Group 5 Discuss author Ōta Yōko based on Treat "Place of the Narrator"	Minear, <i>Hiroshima: Three Witnesses</i> , 305-369 Tōge, "Poems of the Atomic Bomb"; 277-300 "Tōge Sankichi: Translator's Introduction." Film: "The Race" (1999) 40 mins.
3/8 Monday	Group 1 Discuss Tōge "Poems of the Atomic Bomb"	Discuss film "The Race"	Group 2 Discuss poet Tōge Sankichi based on Minear "Translator's Introduction"	Kurihara, <i>When We Say Hiroshima: Selected Poems</i> , 3-57. Treat, <i>Writing Ground Zero</i> , 155-197 "Poetry Against Itself." Film: "Rain of Ruin II" (1995) 60 mins.
Spring Break				
3/22 Monday	Group 3 Discuss responses to Kurihara <i>When We Say Hiroshima</i>	Discuss film "Rain of Ruin II"	Group 4 Discuss poets Tōge Sankichi and Kurihara Sadako based on Treat "Poetry Against Itself"	Nagai, <i>The Bells of Nagasaki</i> PDF 1-118 and "Preface" v-xxxiii. Film: "Children of Nagasaki" (2005) 30 mins.
3/29 Monday	Group 5 Discuss responses to Nagai <i>The Bells of Nagasaki</i>	Discuss film "Children of Nagasaki"	Group 1 Discuss author Nagai Takashi based on "Preface" and video "Children of Nagasaki"	Ōe, <i>The Crazy Iris</i> , 113-143 Sata "Colorless Paintings," Hayashi, "The Empty Can." Treat, <i>Writing Ground Zero</i> , 301-

				349 "Nagasaki and the Human Future." Film: Kurosawa "Rhapsody in August" (1991) 110 mins.
4/5 Monday	Group 2 Discuss responses to Sata "Colorless Paintings," Hayashi "The Empty Can"	Discuss film "Rhapsody in August"	Group 3 Discuss Treat, "Nagasaki and the Human Future"	Ōe, <i>The Crazy Iris</i> , 145-200 Inoue "The House of Hands," Takenishi "The Rite." Film: "Barefoot Gen" (1983) 170 mins.
4/12 Monday	Group 4 Discuss Inoue "House of Hands"	Discuss film "Barefoot Gen"	Group 5 Discuss Takenishi "The Rite"	Ibuse, <i>Black Rain</i> Film: "Black Rain" (1988) 120 mins.
4/19 Monday	Group 1 Discuss responses to Ibuse <i>Black Rain</i>		Group 2 Discuss film "Black Rain"	Ōe, <i>The Crazy Iris</i> , 17-35 Ibuse "The Crazy Iris." Treat, Writing <i>Ground Zero</i> 261-299 "Ibuse Masuji: Nature, Nostalgia, Memory." Film: "White Light, Black Rain" (2007) 90 mins.
4/26 Monday	Group 3 Discuss responses to Ibuse "The Crazy Iris"	Discuss film "White Light, Black Rain"	Group 4 Discuss Treat "Nature, Nostalgia, Memory"	Seirai, <i>Ground Zero</i> 153-182 "Birds" PDF. Treat, <i>Writing Ground Zero</i> , 25-43 "Atrocity into Words."
5/3 Monday	Group 5 Discuss responses to Seirai, "Birds"		All Groups: Discuss "Atrocity into Words"	
[5/10 Monday]	[Final paper due]			

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FINAL PAPER TOPICS due May 10, 2021

Minimum length: 2000 words

25 pts.

Choose one of the four topics below:

1. Explain your understanding of the atomic bombings before you took this seminar, and then describe how your thinking has changed as a result of the *hibakusha* eyewitness accounts, literary texts, films, and scholarly analysis we studied. You must discuss at least three works from different genres.
2. Which specific genre (eyewitness accounts, fiction, poetry, film, scholarship) did you appreciate the most in the seminar? Contrast it with at least one other genre, and explain what it is about the genre you chose that made it so powerful for you. You must include at least three works in your discussion.
3. Discuss differences you observed between Hiroshima and Nagasaki writers' responses to the bombings. Based on discussion and scholarly readings, describe the literary strategies used by non-*hibakusha* writers from both cities to create authentic narratives. You must discuss at least three works from different genres in your discussion.
4. Were there images or scenes of suffering in the materials we studied that had a particular impact on you? Give examples from at least three works in different genres, and explain why those images or scenes were so powerful for you. Discuss the *duration* of suffering in your examples (i.e., it immediate, prolonged, never-ending) and the *type* of suffering (i.e. psychological, physical, spiritual).