

HIS/AAS 353
Postwar Japan

Satisfies: GLO, SBS

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Culture," "Empires, Violence & Global Connections,"
"Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities"

Tu/Th, 3:30-4:50 pm

Professor Janis Mimura

Japan's defeat in World War II, the atomic bomb, and the American Occupation have been defining moments in the formation of the country's postwar identity and sense of place in the world. Perhaps more than any other nation, Japan has yet to completely shed its "postwar" conscience. After considering Japan's wartime experience, we will inquire into its complex legacy and the political, economic, social, and cultural changes that took place in the transwar and postwar periods. What have been the key challenges, dilemmas, and choices made in Japan's reconstruction and reintegration into the global order? How did ordinary Japanese experience these changes? Using a wide array of secondary and primary sources, such as government documents, novels, letters, and films, this course will explore the many facets of Japan's postwar experience.