

Ethical Worlds: Moral Issues across Cultures — Atom Bomb Discourse
Religious and Ethical Questions

REL 202-201/AAS 290-208

Winter 2011

Instructor: Yuki Miyamoto, Ph.D.

Time: T/Th 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Room: McGowan South #104

Office: 2333 N. Racine Avenue, #205

Office Hours: T/TH 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. or by appointment

E-mail: ymiyamot@depaul.edu

Course Description:

This course examines religious, ethical, and spiritual responses to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. We begin with investigations of the actual historical events, which will provide a basis for further discussion of present-day issues surrounding nuclear weaponry. Keeping in mind the influences of nuclear arms upon international relations, we will examine the atomic bombings, the reaction to the incidents from philosophical and religious circles, and responses to subsequent nuclear arms issues. Accordingly, the course is divided into three sections: the first section deals with the fact of the bombings—its force and influence from a historical perspective; the second section covers the intellectual history of war, peace, and the justification of nuclear weaponry. The last section will investigate the way in which various religious traditions address the issue of nuclear arms, particularly in relation to current issues of terrorism, conflict, and war.

Course Methodology:

In this course we will learn about and also apply various ethical theories to historical and current events. The course is divided into three sections, and discussion in each section will revolve around a different focus. The first section has a strong emphasis on historical survey, while the second section will cover philosophical and religious ethical theories in examining war, peace, justice, and nuclear weaponry. In the last section, we will apply these ethical theories to numerous contemporary issues, such as war, nuclear proliferation, and human-made mass death. Doing so will allow us to approach the bomb and related issues in a more informed and critical manner, and to consider more fully the virtues of tolerance and reconciliation in our era of globalization.

The course will include lecture and discussion; the success of the course will depend heavily upon active student participation in class discussions and, time permitting, in class presentations.

Course Objectives:

The primary objective of this course is to come to a fuller understanding of the atomic bombings through an appreciation of the diverse narratives that have developed since 1945. Our goal will not be to attain definitive conclusions concerning the meaning of the historical events, but rather better comprehension of the immense complexity of the bomb and surrounding issues. We will thus learn about such under-examined phenomena as the atrocities that the Japanese Imperial Army committed during the war, as well as the experiences of minority victims (such as Japanese-Americans) of the atomic bombs.

Consequently, our discussion will extend to the philosophical and ethical discourses on nuclear issues and conflicts in other parts of the world. By the end of the term, students will be expected to form and articulate their understandings of the following topics:

***Historical knowledge of periods before and after the bombings** (University Learning Goals 1 and 7)

***The significance of the bombings historically, politically, philosophically, and religiously** (University Learning Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7)

***Just-war theory and its relation to contemporary war issues** (University Learning Goals 1, 4, 5, and 7)

***Understanding of survivors' religious sensibilities** (University Learning Goals 4, 5, 6, and 7)

The ability to articulate one's own opinions on the matters above fulfills in part the University Learning Goals and Departmental Objectives.

Requirements:

In addition to one reflection paper in the beginning (**A=5 points**), there will be five writing **assignments** (single-spaced, 2-3 pages) that you are supposed to submit throughout the course, each of which counts for (**A= 8 points**, all together **40 points**), one **group presentation** (a grade will be given by group, **A = 10 points**), and one **final paper** (double-spaced, 6-8 pages, counting for **A= 20 points**). Full class attendance amounts to **20 points**, while class participation will add another **5 points**. Skipping a class or missing a group presentation will significantly impact your grades, and missing the deadline for the examinations may result in failure of the class. Assignments and essays will be distributed and collected in class. No re-writes and no extensions will be allowed. Please see me during office hours if you have concerns or questions about your grade.

Above grades are subdivided as follows:

94-100	A	Outstanding
91-93	A-	Excellent
88-90	B+	Very Good
84-87	B	Good
81-83	B-	Above Average
78-80	C+	Upper Average
74-77	C	Average
71-73	C-	Below Average
68-70	D+	Poor
64-67	D	Very Poor
61-63	D-	Barely Passing
60 and below	F	Failed

Please consult *University Bulletin*, p.465 for the meaning of grades.

Sessions and Readings:

Required Readings:

*Laura Hein and Mark Selden eds. *Living with the Bomb: American and Japanese Cultural Conflicts in the Nuclear Age* (New York: East Gate Book, 1997);

*Sohali H. Hashmi and Steven P. Lee eds. *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Religious and Secular Perspectives* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004);

*the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, “The Challenge of Peace: God’s Promise and Our Response” (Washington D.C.: United States Catholic Conference, 1983)---only limited copies are available at the University bookstore. Otherwise, visit the following websites:

http://www.osjspm.org/the_challenge_of_peace_1.aspx

http://www.osjspm.org/the_challenge_of_peace_2.aspx

*Judith Butler. *Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable?* (London: Verso, 2010).

*Assigned readings, in addition to the books above, are found in **PDF files** on **Desire2Learn**.

PART I: THE POWER AND INFLUENCE OF THE ATOMIC BOMBS—HISTORICAL SURVEY

Week 1: Introduction and the Facts about the Bombs

1/4 (Tue) Introduction:

1/6 (Thu) The Power of the Bombs

Reading: George H. Roeder, Jr., chapter 4 “Making Things Visible: Learning from the Censors” from *Living with the Bomb*.

Video: Hiroshima Nagasaki August 1945

First Reflection Paper Due

Week 2: The Making of the Myth on the Atomic Bombing

1/11 (Tue) American Myth and History Controversy

Reading: Barton Bernstein “A Postwar Myth: 500,000 U.S. Lives Saved” (PDF) and Adam Goodheart, “The Invasion That Never Was” (PDF), from *Hiroshima’s Shadow: Writings on the Denial of History and The Smithsonian Controversy*. Laura Hein and Mark Selden, chapter 1 “Commemoration and Silence” and Ellen H. Hammond, chapter 5 “Commemoration Controversies: The War, the Peace, and Democracy in Japan” from *Living with the Bomb*. Paul Fussell “Thank God for the Atom Bomb” from *Thank God for the Atom Bomb and Other Essays*” (PDF).

Video: Pearl Harbor (History Channel)

1/13 (Thu) “Victimhood” in Japan

Reading: John W. Dower, chapter 2 “Triumphal and Tragic Narratives of the War in Asia,” Yui Daizaburo, chapter 3 “Between Pearl Harbor and Hiroshima/Nagasaki: Nationalism and Memory in Japan and the United States,” and Lane Fenrich, chapter 6 “Mass Death in Miniature: How Americans Became Victims of the Bomb” from *Living with the Bomb*.

Video: Fog of War (Errol Morris, 2003) and Pearl Harbor: the View from Japan (Reiichi Horie, 2001)

Week 3: Who are the Victims?

1/18 (Tue) Crimes against Humanity—Japanese Culpability

Reading: Andre Ryerson, “The Cult of Hiroshima” (PDF), Saburo Ienaga, “The Horrors of War” from *The Pacific War: 1931-1945* (PDF), and Daqing Yang, “The Challenges of the Nanjing Massacre” from *The Nanjing Massacre: in History and Historiography* (PDF).

Video: Factory of Death: Unit 731 (“60 Minutes”)

First Writing Assignment Due

1/20 (Thu) Silence and Nation-State Framework—Korean Hibakusha, American Hibakusha

Reading: Monica Braw, chapter 8 “Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The voluntary Silence,” Sadao Asada, chapter 9 “The Mushroom Cloud and National Psyche,” Lisa Yoneyama, chapter 10 “Memory Matters: Hiroshima’s Korean Atomic Bomb Memorial and the Politics of Ethnicity” and Sodei Rinjiro, chapter 11, “Were We the Enemy? American Hibakusha,” and Laura Hein, chapter 13 “Learning about Patriotism, Decency, and the Bomb” from *Living with the Bomb*.

Week 4: Frames of Ethics

1/25 (Tue) Women’s Experiences

Reading: Carol Cohn and Sara Ruddick, “A Feminist Ethical Perspective on Weapons of mass Destruction,” and Lucinda Joy Peach, “A Pragmatist Feminist Approach to the Ethics of Weapons of Mass Destructions” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction*, and Terry Tempest Williams, “The Clan of One-Breasted Woman” from *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place* (PDF).

PART II: PHILOSOPHICAL AND RELIGIOUS RESPONSES TO WAR, PEACE, AND NUCLEAR WEAPONRY

1/27 (Thu) Frames of Ethics

Reading: Excerpts from Immanuel Kant on Deontological Ethics and J.S. Mill on Utilitarianism (PDF) Judith Butler, “Introduction to the Paperback,” “Introduction: Precarious Life, Grievable Life,” Chapter 1 “Survivability, Vulnerability, Affect” from *Frames of War*.

Second Writing Assignment Due

Week 5: Weapons of Mass Destruction: Philosophical Perspective

2/1 (Tue) Realism, Liberalism, and WMD

Reading: Susan B. Martin, chapter 1 “Weapons of Mass Destruction,” Paul C. Szasz, chapter 2 “The International Law Concerning Weapons of Mass Destruction,” Scott D. Sagan, chapter 3 “Realist Perspectives on Ethical Norms and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” Susan B. Martin, chapter 4 “Realism and Weapons of Mass Destruction” Henry Shue, chapter 7 “Liberalism,” and Michael Walzer, chapter 8 “A Liberal Perspective on Deterrence and Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Religious and Secular Perspectives*

Video: Trinity and Beyond: The Atomic Bomb Movie (Peter Kuran, 1995)

2/3 (Thu) Christian Tradition and Natural Law Theory

Reading: Excerpts from St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas on War and Peace (PDF). *The Challenge of Peace*, Sections 1- 65 (http://www.osjspm.org/the_challenge_of_peace_1.aspx), C.A. J. Coady, chapter 5 “Natural Law and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” and John Langan, S.J., chapter 6 “War and Indeterminacy in Natural Law Thinking” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Religious and Secular Perspectives*.

Video: Radio Bikini—The American Experience (Robert Stone, 1988)

Week 6: Just War Theory and Christian Response

2/8 (Tue) Just War Theory

Group Presentation 1 and 2: Pros and Cons—Application of Just War Theory

Reading: *The Challenge of Peace*, Sections 66-121

(http://www.osjspm.org/the_challenge_of_peace_1.aspx), Nagel Biggar, chapter 9 “Christianity and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” and Martin L. Cook, chapter 10 “Christian Apocalypticism and Weapons of Mass Destruction” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction*.

Video: Constantine’s Sword

Third Writing Assignment Due

2/10 (Thu)

Group Presentation 3: Nagasaki Catholic Understanding

Reading: Excerpts from Nagai Takashi, *The Bells of Nagasaki* (PDF) and Ian Buruma, “The War Over the Bomb” from *The Missionary and the Libertine: Love and War in East and West* (PDF), and Pope John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris* (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/apost_letters/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_11021984_salvifici-doloris_en.html)

Video: Radiation: A Slow Death A New Generation of Hibakusha (Hitomi Kamanaka, 2003).

Week 7: Buddhist and Hindu Interpretations

2/15 (Tue) Buddhist (True Pure Land) Buddhist Understanding

Group Presentation 4: Hiroshima Buddhist Understanding

Reading: Excerpts from Shinran, *Tan’nishō* (PDF), Kōji Shigenobu’s interpretation of the atomic bomb experience (PDF), David W. Chappell, chapter 11 “Buddhist Perspectives on Weapons of Mass Destruction,” and Donald K. Swearer, chapter 12 “Buddhism and Weapons of Mass Destruction: An Oxymoron?” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction*.

2/17 (Thu) Hindu Understanding

Group Presentation 5: Hindu Interpretation of the Bomb

Reading: Mahatma Gandhi, “The Atomic Bomb and Ahimsa” (PDF), Raminder Karr, chapter 8 “Gods, Bombs, and the Social Imaginary” (PDF), Katherine K. Young, chapter 15 “Hinduism and the Ethics of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” and Kanti Bajpai, chapter 16 “Hinduism and Weapons of Mass Destruction: Pacifist” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction*

Fourth Writing Assignment Due

Week 8: Religion, Nationalism, and the Bomb

2/22 (Tue) Pakistani/Islamic Understanding

Group Presentation 6: Islamic Interpretation of the Bomb

Reading: Itty Abraham “Introduction” and Iftikhan Dadi, chapter 9 “Nuclearization and Pakistani Popular Culture since 1998” from *South Asian Cultures of the Bomb* (PDF). Sohali H. Hashmi, chapter 17 “Islamic Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” and John Kelsay, chapter 18 “Do Not Violate the Limit” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction*. Judith Butler, chapter 3 “Sexual Politics, Torture, and Secular Time” from *Frames of War*.

Video: War and Peace (Anand Patwardham, 2002)

2/24 (Thu) Jewish Understanding

Group Presentation 7: Judaism, Israel, and the Nuclear Weapon

Reading: Reuven Kimelman, “Judaism War, and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” and Joseph E. David, “Between the Bible and the Holocaust: Three Sources for Jewish Perspectives on Mass Destruction” from *Ethics of Weapons of Mass Destruction*

PART III: APPLICATION OF ETHICAL THEORIES

Week 9: Living With/out Nuclear Materials

3/1 (Tue) Possible Guest Speaker: Mr. Steven Leeper (Chairperson of Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation) or **Ms. Sachiko Masuoka** (hibakusha)

3/3 (Thu) Nuclear Tests/Nuclear Power Plants

Group Presentation 8 and 9: Nuclear Tests/Three Mile Island and Chernobyl

Reading: Part 2: Joseph Masco, chapter 2 “Nuclear Techno-aesthetics” and chapter 3 “Econationalisms” from *The Nuclear Borderlands* (PDF). “The Soviet Union” from *Exposure* (PDF), and “Meltdown” (PDF). Allen Buchanan, “Judging the Past: the Case of the Human Radiation Experiments” (PDF).

Video: Meltdown at Three Mile Island (Chana Gazit, 1999) and/or Chernobyl Heart (Maryann DeLeo, 2003)

Fifth Writing Assignment Due

Week 10: Conclusion—Where Are We Going?

3/8 (Tue) Group Presentation 10: Pacifism/Non-Violence

Reading: : Robert L. Holmes, “Pacifism and Weapons of Mass Destruction,” Duane L. Cady, “Pacifism and Weapons of Mass Destruction: The Challenge of Peace,” and Steven P. Lee, “Weapons of Mass Destruction and the Limits of Moral Understanding: A Comparative Essay” from *Ethics and Weapons of Mass Destruction*. Judith Butler, chapter 4 “Non-Thinking in the Name of the Normative,” and chapter 5 “The Claim of Non-Violence” from *Frames of War*.

Final Exams Distributed

3/10 (Thu) Conclusion:

Video: White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Steven Okazaki, 2007)

3/17 (Thu) by 4:00 p.m. Final Exams Due. No extensions are allowed