THE ATOMIC BOMB
Day/Time: TTH 3:30-4:50
Office Address: Harris Hall Room 325
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Maximum Enrollment: 15

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The Atomic Bomb is one of the most controversial topics in twentieth-century global history and has generated a staggering amount of scholarship. But what do we talk about when we talk about its history? The central facts about the bomb’s use in 1945—who did what to whom and why—are not in question: The U.S. government detonated two bombs over two Japanese cities in August 1945. It did so on purpose, intending to cause major damage and loss of life. Nonetheless, the bomb’s development, its use in 1945, and its legacies remain controversial 70 years later in a number of different ways. This course will take up a different sub-topic each week in order to explore many of the controversies surrounding remembrance of the atomic bomb in the United States, Japan, and globally.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Americas, Asia/Middle East

TEACHING METHOD: Seminar

EVALUATION METHOD: Informed class participation, short papers based on course readings and final research paper

READING LIST:
Required books, all available in paperback:
5. Probably one more book

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: I am a professor of modern Japanese history at NU. I work on the 20th century: I’ve written two books on economic ideas and economic policy in postwar Japan, edited five books that compare war remembrance in Japan, including the distinctive memories of Okinawans, to remembrance in the United States, Germany, and elsewhere, and am now working on a book about the different ways that people tried to create new institutions in postwar Japan that would prevent another disaster on the scale of their truly awful war. I also edit a book series and co-edit several journals.