This seminar introduces students to important themes, approaches, and recent historiographical debates in the history of Japan and WWII in Asia. Examining the war from the perspective of Japanese history, we will consider its connections to Asia and the world at large. We will begin with the post-WWI settlement and follow Japan’s increasing estrangement from the liberal world order in the process of its expansion in East and Southeast Asia, its alliance with fascist Europe, and its wager against the Soviet Union and the United States. Students will develop skills in critical reading and analysis of argument, method, and sources through active reading, discussion, and short writing assignments. Other requirements include in-class presentations, a teaching plan, and a 10 to 12-page historiographical essay on a topic of their choice. Prerequisite: Enrollment in HIS MA and PhD students register for HIS 565; MAT students register for CEG 565