History 226

20th Century Japan

Student strike, Tokyo University 1968

Description:
This course introduces students to the major processes shaping 20th century Japanese history. It begins by considering the nature of Tokugawa society as a means of understanding the changes wrought in the wake of the 1868 Meiji Restoration. After considering how the Meiji project transformed Japanese society, the course turns to the creation of the Japanese empire in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, examining the ways this process impacted Japanese and non-Japanese subjects alike. The remainder of the course focuses on the empire’s slide to war and its devastating consequences, finishing with an analysis of Japan’s postwar resurrection and prosperity. By the end of the course, students should be able to identify the many causes and consequences of Japan’s rapid modernization, mid-20th century debacle, and consequent revitalization, as well as their implications for 21st century geopolitics.

- Meets the Critical Perspectives: Diverse Cultures and Critiques requirement.
- Also listed as Asian Studies 230
- 1 unit.

Readings:
Course Reader: extra course readings will be posted on E-res. [add link]

Assessment:
Class Participation: 20 pts.
Discussion assignments: 2 x 5 = 10 pts.
Midterm Examinations: 2 x 20 = 40 pts.
Final Examination: 30 pts.
Class Participation:
Students will attend class prepared to discuss the assigned readings with the instructor and classmates. Students may miss one day of class per block, no questions asked. Beyond that, the participation grade falls by two-thirds for each missed class (e.g. an A- for participation becomes a B on the third absence and a C+ on the fourth). Participation grades reflect the quality, not quantity, of the student's contributions to class discussion. Class begins 9:30 am. Laptops are welcome for note-taking; web-surfing or downloading will affect participation grades substantially.

Discussion Assignments:
Twice during the block students will prepare a pair of discussion questions based on the assigned reading, along with short essays answering them. The assignments should be 2-4 pages in length (1-2 pages per question), typed. The format is as follows:

Discussion question #1: [your question]
• 1 paragraph explaining why this question is central to interpreting the assigned material.
• 1 paragraph answering the question as succinctly as possible
Discussion question #2: [your question]
• 1 paragraph explaining why this question is central to interpreting the assigned material.
• 1 paragraph answering the question as succinctly as possible

DUE DATES: Depending on the first letter of your last name, your two discussion assignments will be due on the following dates:
Last name begins with A-I: First Wednesday, Second Tuesday
Last name begins with J-R: First Thursday, Second Wednesday
Last name begins with S-Z: Second Monday, Third Thursday
Note your dates; I will not remind you. Assignments handed in up to a day late will be penalized; thereafter they cannot be made up. These assignments are worth 5 points a piece, for 10% of the semester grade.

Midterm Examinations:
There will be in-class examinations the first two Friday's of the block. They are worth 20 points each, for a total of 40% of the course grade. The examinations will be composed of relational IDs (see below) and essay questions. These are CLOSED-BOOK examinations.

Final Examination:
On the fourth Wednesday of the block students will complete the course final. Like the midterms, the exam will comprise relational IDs (see below) and essay questions. Unlike the midterms, this is a comprehensive examination covering the entirety of the course. Also unlike the midterms, this is an OPEN-BOOK examination. Only assigned course materials are allowed. The final is worth 30 points, for 30% of the semester grade.
Course Schedule

WEEK ONE: Foundations of 20th Century Japan

Monday, Day 1: Course Introduction
No reading assignment

Tuesday, Day 2: Tokugawa Japan: State & Society
Reading (89 pp.):

Wednesday, Day 3: End of the Old Order: The Meiji Restoration
First discussion assignment due for students with last name A-I.
Reading (91 pp.):
Overview  Gordon, chapters 4-5: 46-76.
Analysis  Thomas Smith, “Japan’s Aristocratic Revolution,” in his Native Sources of Japanese Industrialization (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988), 133-47. READER.
Thomas Huber, “The Chōshū Activists and 1868,” in Wray and Conroy, eds., 66-71

Thursday, Day 4: Revolution as Restoration: The Meiji Decade
First discussion assignment due for students with last name J-R.
Reading (93 pp.):
Overview  Gordon, chapters 6-7: 76-114.
Hane, "Farmers and Farm Life," Peasants, Rebels and Outcastes, 29-49. READER.
Donald Roden. “Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan,” American Historical Review 85, No. 3 (1980), 511-34. READER.

Friday, Day 5: Midterm Examination
WEEK TWO: The Rise and Fall of Empire

Monday, Day 6: Dawn of Empire: Expansion into East Asia

Reading (69 pp.):
Overview  Gordon, chapter 8: 115-37.


Tuesday, Day 7: Japan in the 1920s and 1930s

Second discussion assignment due for students with last name A-I

Reading (89 pp.):
Overview  Gordon, chapters 9-10: 139-81.

Wednesday, Day 8: Dusk of Empire: The Pacific War

Reading (109 pp.):
Overview  Gordon, chapters 11-12: 182-225.
John Dower, Embracing Defeat (Norton, 1999), chapter 1: 33-64.

Thursday, Day 9: Occupation

Reading (123 pp.):
Analysis  Dower, chapters 2-4, 6: 65-167; 203-224.

Friday, Day 10: Midterm Examination

WEEK THREE: The Postwar Legacy and Late 20th Century Japan

Monday, Day 11: The New Order

Reading (148 pp.):
Analysis  Dower, chapters 7-12: 225-73.

Tuesday, Day 12: The Postwar Legacy

Reading (116 pp.):
Analysis  Dower, chapters 14-18: 405-521.
Wednesday, Day 13: Late 20th Century Japan
Second discussion assignment due for students with last name J-R.
Reading (88 pp.):
Overview
Gordon,
Analysis

Thursday, Day 14: Globalization and Japanese Culture
Second discussion assignment due for students with last name S-Z.
Reading (pp.):
Overview
Gordon, chapters 16-17: 291-332.
Analysis

WEEK FOUR: Century’s End and Beyond

Monday, Day 16: Religion, Terrorism and Contemporary Japan
Reading (130 pp.):
Documents

Tuesday, Day 17: Contemporary Japan and its Discontents
Reading (133 pp.):
Documents
Murakami, 224-357.

Wednesday, Day 18: Final Examination
Final Examination
RELATIONAL IDS

The examinations will each commence with a section asking you to define and relate pairs of terms from two columns. Short answers will consist of three components: the definition of each term (including date or other indication of chronology for the term), and an explanation of the relationship between them. See the following example:

sample columns:
Meiji Restoration Satsuma
Kido Kōin fukoku kyōhei
“Black Ships” Edo

sample answer:

Meiji Restoration—fukoku kyōhei
The Meiji Restoration took place in 1868 when a group of dissatisfied samurai led by men from Satsuma and Choshu overthrew the Tokugawa shogunate, ‘restoring’ the young Meiji emperor to the throne. *Fukoku kyōhei* means ‘rich country, strong army,’ and as a slogan signified the aspirations of late 19th Century reformers to transform Japan into a modern nation that could compete with the west. It was during the decades following the Meiji Restoration that Japan made rapid strides towards achieving this goal, by creating a new political and legal system, as well as initiating programs of rapid industrialization and economic expansion.

The pool of terms from which the exams will draw are given below.

**WEEK ONE**

1853 Ichikō
1868 Imperial Rescript on Education
1889 Itō Hirobumi
*bakufu* Iwakura Mission
Charter Oath jiyū minken
Chichibu Kido Kōin
Chikamatsu Monzaemon ninjo
Chōshū Ohatsu
container society Osaka
*daimyō* sankin kōtai
Edo Satsuma
Extraterritoriality shizoku
*giri* Yokohama
*han* zaibatsu
*heimin*

**WEEK TWO**

1895 1905
1904 1914
1922
1931
21 Demands
gaiichi / naichi
Hara Kei
Hibiya
imperial democracy
Kwantung Army
kyodatsu
“Little America”
Manchurian Incident

WEEKS THREE & FOUR
1952
1960
Ainu
Asahara Shōko
B-Boys and B-Girls
burakumin
genba globalism
Komeitō
LDP
manifest deity / akitumikami
Mishima Yukio

Minseitō
“modern girl” / modan garu
musan kaikyū
panpan
sarariiman
SCAP
Seiyūkai
Taishō
Tanaka Giichi
Yamagata Aritomo

MITI
NeoTokyo
Nippon chinbotsu
Okinawa
PL Kyodan
Shattered God
shinkansen
Shōwa
Soka Gakkai
Yoshida Shigeru
Japan Reference Timeline

Early Japan

- **c5000-200 BCE Jomon 糸文** Neolithic pottery culture
  - Hunter-gathering (and fishing) society
  - Evolution of earliest social and cultural patterns

- **c100 BCE—0 Yayoi** 弥生 bronze age culture
  - Development of rice cultivation, iron-working technology
  - Evolution of early religious practices

- **c250-552 CE Tomb (kofun 古墳) Period**
  - Evolution of clan-based society, exemplified by massive tombs
  - Introduction of Chinese script, 4th century
  - Yamato clan extends political control over islands; claims descent from sun goddess Amaterasu

- **552-710 Late Yamato 大和 Period**
  - Japanese state reorganized along centralized Chinese model
  - Introduction and adoption of Buddhism from China via Korea

- **710-794 Nara 奈良 period**
  - Earliest written histories and literary works
  - High point of Chinese influence

- **794-1160 Heian 平安 period (ruling clan: Fujiwara 藤原)**
  - Development of Japanese kana syllabaries, prose literary tradition (Lady Murasaki Shikibu’s Tale of Genji, c.1009-1020)
  - Artistic and refined aristocratic and court culture
  - Weakening of imperial power; rise of samurai and bushido

Medieval Japan

- **1185-1333 Kamakura 鎌倉 Period (ruling clan: Minamoto 源)**
  - Establishment of bakufu and shogun tradition by Minamoto 源 clan
  - Waning of Chinese influence, domestication of Buddhism, rise of Zen & Pure Land Buddhism
  - Evolution of prose tradition: Heike monogatari, c. 1220

- **1333-1600 Muromachi 室町 (ruling clan: Ashikaga 足利)**
  - Development of Noh theatre, 14th century
  - Onin War (1467-77) splinters control of shogunate, initiating era of division; Warring States period (1482-1558): domains vie for power
  - 15th-16th centuries: Zen Buddhism: gardens, architecture, tea ceremony
  - 1582: Unification of Japan under Toyotomi Hideyoshi

Tokugawa and Modern Japan

- **1600-1868 Edo 江戸 Period (ruling clan: Tokugawa 徳川)**
- **1868-1912 Meiji 明治 Period**
- **1912-1926 Taishō 大正 Period**
- **1926-1989 Shōwa 昭和 Period**
- **1989-present Heisei 平成 Period**

* There are many different periodizations of Japanese history; not all correspond to this very basic one.
Japanese Weights and Measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Japanese</th>
<th>U.S. or British</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LENGTH:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 ri</td>
<td>2.44 miles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AREA:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 cbō = 10 tan</td>
<td>2.45 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tan = 10 se</td>
<td>0.245 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 se = 30 tsubo</td>
<td>0.0245 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 tsubo = 1/30 se</td>
<td>3.95 square yards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VOLUME:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 koku = 10 to</td>
<td>4.96 imperial bushels/5.119 U.S. bushels/47.6567 U.S. gallons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 to = 10 sbō</td>
<td>0.496 imperial bushels/0.56567 U.S. bushels or 1,216.429 cubic inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sbō = 10 go</td>
<td>0.05667 U.S. bushels or 121.64 cubic inches/0.47657 U.S. gallon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 go = 1/10 sbō</td>
<td>0.04766 U.S. gallon or 12.164 cubic inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEIGHT:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 kan = 1,000 momme</td>
<td>8.267 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 momme = 1/1000 kan</td>
<td>0.13228 ounce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONEY:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 yen = 100 sen</td>
<td>In 1940, equaled 0.2344 U.S. dollar*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 sen = 1/100 yen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Traditionally in Japan, when calculating age, a person is considered to be age one at birth, two on the first New Year’s Day and so forth. Thus, ordinarily, there is one year’s difference between the Japanese and Western versions of the same person’s age. To indicate a person’s age in Western terms, the prefix man (“full,” “fully”) is used. People of the older generation still calculate age in the traditional way.

*Currently the official exchange sets the yen at 360 yen per U.S. dollar, but in July 1981 one dollar was worth about 220 yen. The sen is no longer in use today.