

## History 226 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japan



Student strike, Tokyo University 1968

### Description:

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This course introduces students to the major processes shaping 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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-20<sup>th</sup> century debacle, and consequent revitalization, as well as their implications for 21<sup>st</sup> century geopolitics.

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

### Readings:

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

Dower, John. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*. New York: Norton, 1999.

Gordon, Andrew. *The Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003.

Murakami, Haruki. *Underground: The Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche*. New York: Vintage, 2001.

Wray, Harry and Hilary Conroy eds. *Japan Examined: Perspectives on Modern Japanese History*. New York: Norton, 1999.

### Assessment:

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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 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japan

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#### Monday, Day 1: Course Introduction

No reading assignment

#### Tuesday, Day 2: Tokugawa Japan: State & Society

Reading (89 pp.):

Overview **Andrew Gordon**, *The Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), chapters 1-3: 1-45.

Analysis **John W. Hall**, "Rule by Status in Tokugawa Japan," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 1, No. 1 (1974), 39-49. READER.

Documents **Chikamatsu Monzaemon**, "The Love Suicides at Sonezaki;" "Appendix I: A note on prostitution in Chikamatsu's plays," *Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu*, trans. by Donald Keene (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), 39-56; 209-11. READER.  
**Yasumi Roan**, *Ryokō Yōjinshu (Precautions for Travelers)*, in "Caveat Viator: Advice to Travellers in the Edo Period," by Constantine Vaporis, *Monumenta Nipponica* 44, No. 4 (1989), 469-83. READER.

#### 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.  
**Harold Bolitho**, "The Meiji Restoration," in *Japan Examined: Perspectives on Modern Japanese History*, edited by Harry Wray and Hilary Conroy (New York: Norton, 1999), 59-65.

**Thomas Huber**, "The Chōshū Activists and 1868," in Wray and Conroy, eds., 66-71

**Conrad Totman**, "The Meiji Restoration: From Obsolete Order to Effective Regime," in Wray and Conroy, 72-78.

**Mikiso Hane**, "Modernization and the Peasants," in *Peasants, Rebels, Women and Outcastes: The Underside of Modern Japan* (Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), 2-27. READER.

Documents **The Charter Oath, Meiji Constitution, Imperial Rescript on Education**, and selected documents by **Kido Kōin**, in *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Vol. 2, edited by William de Bary (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), 638-54.

#### 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.

Analysis **Mikiso Hane**, "The Movement for Liberty and Popular Rights," in Wray and Conroy, 90-97.

**James Huffman**, "The Popular Rights Debate: Political or Ideological," in Wray and Conroy, 98-103.

**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**

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

*Reading (69 pp.):*

Overview **Gordon**, chapter 8: 115-37.

Analysis **“Meiji Imperialism: Planned or Unplanned,” various**, Wray and Conroy 121-48.  
**Peter Duus, “The Takeoff Point of Japanese Imperialism,”** in Wray and Conroy, 153-7.  
**Edward I-te Chen, “Japanese Colonialism: An Overview,”** in Wray and Conroy, 201-7.  
**Mark R. Peattie, “Japanese Colonialism: Discarding the Stereotypes,”** in Wray and Conroy, 208-13.

Documents **Han-Kyo Kim, “Japanese Colonialism in Korea,”** in Wray and Conroy, 222-227.  
**Selections from *Under the Black Umbrella: Voices of Colonial Korea, 1910-1945***, edited by Hildi Kang (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001), 6-23, 49-60.

### 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.

Analysis **Stephen Large, “The Patterns of Taishō Democracy,”** in Wray and Conroy, 175-80.

Documents **Jun’ichirō Tanazaki, *In Praise of Shadows***, (1933, rep. New Haven CT: Leete’s Island, 1977).

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

*Reading (109 pp.):*

Overview **Gordon**, chapters 11-12: 182-225.

Analysis **Richard Smethurst, “A Social Origin of the Second World War,”** in Wray and Conroy, 269-81.

Documents **John Dower, *Embracing Defeat*** (Norton, 1999), chapter 1: 33-64.  
**Selected memoirs from *Japan at War***, edited by Haruko T. Cook and Theodore F. Cook (New York: New Press, 1992), 29-46, 462-8. READER.

### 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japan**

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### 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 20<sup>th</sup> Century Japan

*Second discussion assignment due for students with last name J-R.*

*Reading (88 pp.):*

Overview **Gordon,**

Analysis

**David L. Howell, "Ethnicity and Culture in Contemporary Japan,"** *Journal of Contemporary History* 31, No. 1 (1996), 171-90. READER.

**Ted J. Solomon, "The Response of Three New Religions to the Crisis in the Japanese Value System,"** *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 16, No. 1 (1977), 1-14. READER.

**H. Byron Earhart, "The Interpretation of the 'New Religions' of Japan as Historical Phenomena,"** *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 37, No. 3 (1969), 237-48. READER.

### 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

**Susan Napier, "Panic Sites: The Japanese Imagination of Disaster from *Godzilla* to *Akira*,"** *Journal of Japanese Studies* 19, No. 2 (1993), 327-51. READER.

**Ian Condry, "Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture,"** in *Urban Life: Readings in the Anthropology of the City* (

### Friday, Day 15: FILM: *Akira*

## **WEEK FOUR: Century's End and Beyond**

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### Monday, Day 16: Religion, Terrorism and Contemporary Japan

*Reading (130 pp.):*

Documents **Haruki Murakami, *Underground: The Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche*** (New York: Vintage International), 3-58, 118-82, 202-23.

### 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  
Kido Kōin  
“Black Ships”

Satsuma  
*fukoku kyōhei*  
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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

1868

1889

*bakufu*

Charter Oath

Chichibu

Chikamatsu Monzaemon

Chōshū

container society

*daimyō*

Edo

Extraterritoriality

*giri*

*han*

*heimin*

Ichikō

Imperial Rescript on Education

Itō Hirobumi

Iwakura Mission

*jiyū minken*

Kido Kōin

*ninjo*

Ohatsu

Osaka

*sankin kōtai*

Satsuma

*shizoku*

Yokohama

*zaibatsu*

### **WEEK TWO**

1895

1904

1905

1914

1922  
1931  
21 Demands  
*gaichi / 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 diety / *akitsumikami*  
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** 縄文 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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, 14<sup>th</sup> century
  - Onin War (1467-77) splinters control of shogunate, initiating era of division; Warring States period (1482-1558): domains vie for power
  - 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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.

Source: Mikiso Hane, *Peasants, Rebels, Women, and Outcastes*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), ix.