Spring 2015

History 284
Tokyo: 1600-2000

M/W 2:30-3:45
King 337
Office Hours: Th. 2:50 – 4:15pm
Fri. noon – 1:30pm

Professor Emer O’Dwyer
Rice 308, Tel. 5-6708
Emer.ODwyer@oberlin.edu

This course charts the history of one of the world’s first metropolises. From shogunal capital in the early seventeenth century to global commerce center in the twenty-first, Edo/Tokyo will be examined from political, economic, social, and cultural angles to question familiar assumptions about the course and nature of modernity.

Students are encouraged to keep in mind the following goals for maximizing learning throughout the semester:

• To look for patterns and themes in history. Students are encouraged to draw connections between major events and ideas in Japan’s modern history and those encountered in other history courses.
• To think about how historians practice their craft. In particular, students will learn to read and interpret a variety of primary sources as a way of understanding the creation of multiple perspectives on the past.
• To understand how history-writing is shaped by contemporary concerns.
• To improve expository writing about historical events; to posit an argument and develop it in a clear and logical progression.
• To polish the verbal articulation of ideas before an audience of one’s peers.
• To gain an appreciation for Japan’s role in today’s world, understanding the relationship between where it has been and where it is headed as a nation.

Required texts: Required texts may be ordered through an on-line retailer. They will also be on reserve at Mudd Library.


All other readings are available on Blackboard, unless otherwise noted.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:
The course grade will be based on the following:

• Class Participation 20%
• Short Paper (1,800 words) 20%
• Research Prospectus 20%
• Tuesday Presentations (2 req.) 20%
• Thursday Responses (7 req.) 20%
Grading relies on the following scale: A+ 100-98; A 97-94; A- 93-90; B+ 89-87; B 86-83; B- 82-80; C+ 79-77; C 76-73; C- 72-70; D 65-69, F below 65.

Assignments:
**Paper #1** is due by 4pm on **Friday, March 20**.

**Research Prospectus**: Throughout the semester, students will work on crafting a research prospectus on a topic of their choosing and related to course themes. *Note: No final research paper is required.* Rather, the purpose of this exercise is to learn/practice the steps in putting together and framing a research project. The process of deciding on a topic, framing a research question, identifying relevant sources, and considering the big “so what?” question will be semester-long. At the same time, each step will have discrete deadlines:

- **Sun., March 1**: Choose a topic and submit by e-mail by 4pm.
- **Mon., March 2**: Meet at Mudd during class-time for research skills session with librarian, Jennifer Starkey.
- **Mon. April 6**: Preliminary bibliography due for secondary sources materials.
- **Mon. April 13**: Preliminary bibliography due for primary sources materials.
- **Mon. April 20**: One-paragraph summary of proposed topic and research question.
- **Mon. May 11**: Final research proposal due by 4pm: will include a description of the questions to be asked, survey of relevant background literature (1,200 words) and full bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

Assignments are due on (or before) the due date noted. Only one extension will be granted per semester and must be requested during office hours at least two days before the due date of the assignment. (Note: Requests for extensions may not be granted in all cases.) Late assignments will be reduced by one grade step per day. A paper due on Friday, March 20 which is turned in on March 21, for example, will get a “B-” rather than the “B” it merited. A “B” paper turned in on March 22 will earn a “C+”, etc.

**Monday Presentations**: Every Monday, two students will give a presentation of no more than 15 minutes focused on the week’s readings. The students responsible for presenting in a given week are also responsible for preparing reading questions and distributing them to class members by 6pm on the Sunday night before their presentation. Reading questions (minimum of 4) should cover all readings for the week. Students are expected to complete two presentations over the course of the semester, each time with a different partner. (One presentation must be completed by Week 8.)

**Wednesday Response Papers**: A one-page double-spaced response paper will be due each Wednesday by 11am (electronic submission encouraged). The paper should reflect your response to the readings assigned for the week. These do not need to be well-crafted essays, but rather should be focused around critical observations of the author’s argument or approach, points of comparison with other material from the course, and/or questions of fact or interpretation stimulated by the readings.

Note: students may have two free passes for the semester exempting them from submission of a weekly response. Additionally, there will be no response paper required.
for weeks 1, 5, 7, and 13. At least two responses must be submitted before Week 8.

**Tokyo in the News:**
Each student will be responsible once over the course of the semester for locating an essay/blog post/newspaper, or magazine article/short story featuring some element of Tokyo’s history, culture, society, politics and writing a 500-word essay of response. Each student must submit at least one response on a Monday class period—a schedule for sign-up will distributed in the first week of class.

*Note:* All written work must be completed and turned in to receive credit for the course. More than 3 unexcused absences will jeopardize your passing the course.

**CLASS FORMAT & EXPECTATIONS:**
Class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory and absences will be recorded. Students are required to complete all assigned readings and be prepared to discuss them on the assigned date. Additionally, students are expected to be ready to begin promptly at 2:30pm for each class meeting. Tardiness of greater than 10 minutes will result in a mark of “absent.”

**Film Screening:** “Drunken Angel” (*Yoidore tenshi*, 1948) by Director Kurosawa Akira will be screened on **Tuesday, April 14 at 7pm** (location: TBA).

**Special Events:**

**Writing Assistance:** Students are advised to consult Kate Turabian’s *Student’s Guide to Writing College Papers*, Fourth Edition (University of Chicago, 2010) as a guide for questions relating to proper citation technique and methods for improving clarity of written expression. Students are also encouraged to attend the writing skills workshops offered by the staff of Student Academic Services (SAS) located in Peters 118.

**Special Needs:** Requests for extra time on exams and other special needs must be made well in advance of exam times/other due dates and must be accompanied by an endorsement from Ms. Jane Boomer, Student Academic Services (Peters G27).

**Honor Code:** Students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments, concluding each with one’s signature beneath the handwritten pledge: “I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code on this assignment.” Infractions of the Honor Code will be referred to the College Honor Committee. Questions regarding the citation of sources and proper attribution of information should be directed to the instructor. For more information on the Oberlin Honor Code, please refer to the “Student Policies” section of the Oberlin College website.

**Class Etiquette:**
- Turn off all cell phones for entirety of class period.
• No internet surfing. Internet use during class period distracts not only the surfer but other students as well. Offenders will be prohibited from using laptops/tablets in class.

PART I
Edo: Capital of the Eighteenth Century

Week 1: Beginnings: Time and Place
Feb. 2: Introduction

Feb. 4: Establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate


Week 2: Building Legitimacy
Feb. 9: Edo Castle and its Jōkamachi (城下町) / Structure of Political Authority in Edo


Feb. 11: Spatial Configurations in the Shogunal Capital


• Available on JSTOR


• Available on JSTOR

Week 3: Edo Urban Culture
Feb. 16: The Townsman and His World

Feb. 18: Pleasure
- Available on JSTOR


*Week 4: Everyday Life*

Feb. 23: Consumption Patterns

- Available on J-STOR.

Feb. 25: Health and Welfare


*Week 5: Library and Museum Visits*

March 2: Library Session with research librarian, Jennifer Starkey

March 4: Allen Art Museum Visit

PART II

Tokyo: A New Imperial Capital

*Week 6: From “Edo” to “Tokyo”: Designing a New City and a New Polity*

March 9: The Spectacle of Meiji Tokyo


March 11: Life in the Modern Metropolis


Week 7: Disaster and Rebuilding
March 16: The Great Kantō Earthquake


March 20: Paper #1 Due (Note: No Wednesday response paper due this week.)

Spring Break

Week 8: Tokyo Modern, The Prewar Years
March 30: The Crimson Gang of Asakusa
Kawabata, Yasunari. The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa. (1930) (Selections)


April 1: Mass Culture and Modernity
Week 9: War
April 6: Homefront

April 8: Wartime Diaries


PART III
Postwar

Week 10: Rebuilding
April 13*: Tokyo in Ruins

- Available on-line through OBIS.


April 15: Occupied City

“Gate of Flesh” (Nikutai no mon) Dir. Suzuki Seijun, 1964.

*Note: Tues. April 14 at 7pm: Film screening: “Drunken Angel” (Yoidore tenshi, 1948) by Director Kurosawa Akira.

Week 11: High-Growth Era Megalopolis
April 20: The Aspirational ‘60s
- Available on-line through OBIS.
April 22: Cultures of Excess
• Available on-line through OBIS.

Parreñas, Rhacel Salazar. Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo. (Stanford University Press, 2011): Chs. 2, 3 (pp. 57-113.)

Week 12: 1990s: The Struggle Years
April 27: A Faltering Economy & The Search for Identity

April 29: Aum Shinrikyo and Domestic Terrorism
Murakami, Underground, 247-358.

Week 13: 3-11 and After
May 4: Triple Disaster
Samuels, Richard J. 3-11: Disaster and Change in Japan. (Cornell University, 2013): ch. 1 “The Status Quo and 3-11,” (pp. 1-23) and ch. 3 “Historical and Comparative Guidance” (pp. 46-79).


May 6: Concluding Thoughts

May 11: 4pm Research Prospectus Due.