

## Space and Place in Modern Japan

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**Class Time:** Tuesday 1PM-2:50PM

**Classroom:** Wilder 211

**My Office:** Rice 16

**Office Hours:** Tuesday 3PM-4PM, Wednesday 10AM-12PM, by appointment

### COURSE DESCRIPTION :

From political conflict and religious ritual to population movements and new social norms, Japan's sacred, socio-cultural, and politico-economic landscapes have shaped and been shaped by various types and scales of physical space. Historians, however, have much too often excluded the category of space from their analyses. This course is designed to address this deficiency by introducing students to the historical study of Japanese space using interdisciplinary perspectives from architecture, urban studies, geography, sociology, and other fields. We will examine the conceptualization, structure, and impact of several types of Japanese space including the city, the countryside, the frontier, the colony, the home, and the shrine, and the role that these spaces have played in late medieval, early modern, and modern Japanese human history.

### STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES :

- A spatially informed knowledge of the Japanese past
- An awareness of the spatial dimensions at work in historical and current events in Japan and beyond
- The ability to recognize, apply and appreciate the perspectives of other academic disciplines in the study of history
- The development of advanced critical reading, historical writing, and verbal communication skills

### REQUIRED BOOKS :

\* (All other works are available through E-RES, Blackboard, or J-STOR)

1) Naito, Akira, *Edo, the City that Became Tokyo: An Illustrated History*, trans. H. Mack Morton. Tokyo: Kodansha, 2003.

- OR -

1) Seidensticker, Edward, *Low City, High City: Tokyo from Edo to the Earthquake*. New York, Knopf, 1983.

2) Sand, Jordan. *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, 1880-1930*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.

3) Thal, Sarah. *Rearranging the Landscape of the Gods: The Politics of a Pilgrimage Site in Japan, 1573-1912*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

- 4) Walker, Brett L. *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.
- 5) Wigen, Karen. *The Making of a Japanese Periphery, 1750-1920*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

## ASSIGNMENTS :

Book Reviews (3)	15%
Minor Presentations (3)	15%
Historical essay	40%
Major Presentation	10%
Image Analysis	10%
Active Participation	10%

## ASSIGNMENT EXPLANATIONS :

**Book Review :** 500-word summary and critique of a book assigned for this class. Each review is due in class on the day designated for the discussion of the assigned reading.

**Minor Presentation :** 5-minute summary of the student's book review and a short set of impressive points/problems/questions that stuck with you after finishing the work.

**Historical Essay:** 6000-word essay on the history of a Japanese space of your choosing not directly covered in this course. Students should write this essay for an audience of advanced undergraduates or beginning graduate students. Students should analyze both the shape and importance of the space, and use images when at all possible. I will be checking on each student's progress on this project throughout the second half of the semester. The basic components, in chronological order, will be a proposal, annotated bibliography, outline, draft, and final essay.

**Major Presentation:** 20-minute talk on the space studied in the student's Historical Essay. PowerPoint and other forms of audio-visual aid are strongly encouraged. The student is also responsible for answering questions from classmates after the presentation.

**Image Analysis:** 500-word paper identifying and describing the nature of the Japanese spaces depicted in two or more related images. Students should discuss the human role in creating the space and the impact of the space on people utilizing it.

**Active Participation :** A composite grade comprising attendance (required), participation in class during discussions, activities, and presentations

**Week 1 – 9/7 : Introductions**

READINGS :

1) De Certeau, Michel. *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. Steven Rendall. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984. pp. 91-130,

- AND -

2) Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*, trans. Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995., 195-308.

**Week 2 – 9/14**

READINGS :

1) Naito, Akira, *Edo, the City that Became Tokyo: An Illustrated History*, trans. H. Mack Morton. Tokyo: Kodansha, 2003.

- OR -

1) Seidensticker, Edward, *Low City, High City: Tokyo from Edo to the Earthquake*. New York, Knopf, 1983.

**Week 3 (Monday) – 9/20**

VISIT : 3PM-4PM Museum Special Collections Viewing Session with Dr. Liliana Milkova, Curator of Academic Programs.

**Week 3 (Tuesday) – 9/21**

READINGS :

1) Smith, Henry D., “Tokyo as an Idea: An Exploration of Japanese Urban Thought until 1945” *The Journal of Japanese Studies* Vol. 4, no. 1 (Winter 1978): 45-80.

- AND -

2) Steele, M. William, “Moving into the City: Yoshino Taizo and the Incorporation of the Tama Districts into Tokyo in 1893” in Helen Hardacre, Adam L. Kern, *New Directions in the Study of Meiji Japan* (Leiden: Brill, 1997), 486-474.

**Week 4 – 9/28**

READINGS :

- 1) Howell, David. "Territoriality and Collective Identity in Tokugawa Japan" *Daedalus* Vol. 127, No. 3 (Summer, 1998): 105-132.
- AND -
- 2) Smits, Gregory. *Visions of Ryukyu: Identity and Ideology in Early-Modern Thought and Politics*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1999., 15-49.
- AND -
- 3) Yonemoto, Marcia "Maps and Metaphors of the "Small Eastern Sea" in Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868)" *Geographical Review* Vol. 89, No. 2, (Apr., 1999): 169-187.

**Week 5 – 10/5**

READINGS :

- 1) Walker, Brett L. *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

**Week 6 – 10/12**

READINGS :

- 1) Iyenaga Toyokichi, "Japan's Annexation of Korea" *Journal of Race Development* Vol. 3, No. 2 (Oct., 1912): 201-223.
- AND -
- 2) Mizuno, Norihito. "Early Meiji Policies Towards the Ryukyus and the Taiwanese Aboriginal Territories" *Modern Asian Studies* Vol. 43, No. 3 (May, 2009): 683-739.

**Week 7 – 10/19**

READINGS :

- 1) Wigen, Karen. *The Making of a Japanese Periphery, 1750-1920*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995.

## **Week 8 – 10/26**

### READINGS :

1) Lewis, Michael. "The Meandering Meaning of Local Autonomy: Bosses, Bureaucrats, and Toyama's Rivers" in Helen Hardacre, Adam L. Kern, *New Directions in the Study of Meiji Japan*. Leiden: Brill, 1997., 440-450.

- AND -

2) Hanes, Jeffrey E. "Contesting Centralization? Space, Time, and Hegemony in Meiji Japan" in *New Directions in the Study of Meiji Japan*. Leiden: Brill, 1997., 485-498.

- AND -

3) Waters, Neil L. "The Second Transition: Early to Mid-Meiji in Kanagawa Prefecture" *The Journal of Asian Studies* Vol. 49, No. 2 (May, 1990): 305-322.

## **Week 9 – 11/2**

### READINGS :

1) Thal, Sarah. *Rearranging the Landscape of the Gods: The Politics of a Pilgrimage Site in Japan, 1573-1912*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005.

## **Week 10 – 11/9**

### READINGS :

1) Nelson, John. "Social Memory as Ritual Practice: Commemorating Spirits of the Military Dead at Yasukuni Shinto Shrine," *The Journal of Asian Studies* Vol. 62, no. 2 (May, 2003): 443-467.

- AND -

2) Matsuoka, Hideaki, "Landscape as doctrinal representation: the sacred place of Shuyodan Hoseikai" *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* Vol. 32, No.2 (2005): 319-339.

## **Week 11 (Monday) – 11/15**

VISIT : 3PM-4PM Museum Special Collections Viewing Session with Dr. Liliana Milkova, Curator of Academic Programs.

## **Week 11 (Tuesday) – 11/16**

READINGS : None

ASSIGNMENTS : **Image Analysis Due**

**Week 12 – 11/23**

READINGS :

1) Sand, Jordan. *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, 1880-1930*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.

**Week 13 – 11/30**

READINGS :

1) Morse, Edward S. *Japanese Homes and their Surroundings*. Boston: Ticknor and Co., 1886., 1-272.

**Week 14 – 12/7**

READINGS : None

ASSIGNMENTS :

- 1) **Major Presentations**
- 2) **Historical Essay due**

**Week 15 – 12/14**

READINGS : None

ASSIGNMENTS : **Major Presentations**

**FINE PRINT:**

**Syllabus Disclaimer**

This syllabus may be altered at any time by the professor. Any such changes in this course will be posted immediately on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.

**Plagiarism :**

This term essentially refers to copying someone else's work without acknowledging that he/she was the source. This can include using the work of a classmate, a scholar, or even one's own work if it was completed for a different course. The liberal arts education is

based on the development of creative and critical thinking skills in students, and plagiarism hinders these goals. If you are unsure about what plagiarism means, hypothetically or in an actual situation, I am happy to discuss it with you at any time during the semester.

**The Honor Code:**

In order to provide students with more academic freedom and the tools necessary to take control and responsibility for their own educations, Oberlin College requires that each student sign an Honor Code pledge for all assignments. This pledge states that “I affirm that I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment.” For more on this great system, see: <http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/honor/>

*Each student is encouraged to help the professor get to know him/her. Come to class, and come to office hours.*