Japanese perceptions of the Asian mainland changed dramatically, from the time when Japan was incorporated into a Sino-centric cultural sphere to nineteenth century calls for Japan to exit Asia and enter Europe to, more recently, Japan’s multi-faceted engagement with Asia. This course is both a history of how Japanese perceptions of Asia changed over time and of how they differed among individuals and groups in Japan. It will focus on the experiences of groups of intellectuals, politicians, settlers, or housewives who came to perceive Asia in various, sometimes conflicting, ways.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

PRESENTATIONS AND SHORT PAPERS

Each student will be responsible for three short papers. Paper writers will become the experts on the topic for that week and will be given 15 minutes at the beginning of class to discuss the merits and demerits of the week’s readings or multimedia, to relate them to other works, and to start discussion. To impart their expertise to the class, each expert will write a short essay (1-2 pages typed, single spaced) and be prepared to answer questions and lead discussion on the readings.

Copies of each essay should be sent to members of the seminar via email 24 hours before beginning of the seminar. All students are expected to read the student essays as part of the required readings for each week.

DISCUSSION POINTS

Each student will be responsible for posting discussion points and questions about the readings two hours before the beginning of class. Discussion points are issues which you think are important and would want to discuss if you were leading the seminar.

RESEARCH PAPER

Each student is required to write a research paper (7-11 pages single spaced) on one aspect of the social history of aesthetics in Japan. Selection of a topic should be finalized by October 5. A one page description with bibliography is due October 19. You will give a 20 minute presentation of your paper to the class on November 30 or December 7. The completed paper is due on December 21 at 11 am.
REQUIRED TEXTS

Required texts have been ordered in paperback at the Oberlin Bookstore (basement) as well as placed on reserve at Mudd Library.


GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three presentations and short papers</td>
<td>15% each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly discussion points/ questions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class attendance and participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Short papers are due 24 hours before the beginning of class. Each short paper and presentation will receive a combined grade that will be posted on blackboard shortly after each class.

Discussion points and questions are due two hours before class. They are graded with a check, check plus, or check minus, but will not be handed back. Students who would like to know their mark on the discussion points should ask the instructor.

The final paper is due on December 21 at 11:00 am.

Late work will be marked down 2/3 of a grade for the first day and 1/3 of a grade for every day thereafter.

HONOR CODE

All students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments.

WRITING ASSISTANCE

Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center in Mudd Library where tutors from the Writing Associates Program can provide strategies for improving writing skills.
**Office Hours**
Mondays and Wednesdays 3:45-4:45 pm or by appointment.
Students are encouraged to come see the instructor with questions about any aspect of the course.

**Class Schedule**

**September 7: Introduction**

**September 14: Japan’s Incorporation into the Sinosphere**


**September 21: Early Modern Japan: Closed, Open, or Otherwise**

**September 28: The Opium War in Japanese Eyes**

*Final paper topics should be selected by October 5.*

**October 5: Good-Bye Asia**


OCTOBER 12: ASIA IS ONE!

OCTOBER 19: SETTLERS IN MANCHURIA

NOVEMBER 2: SETTLERS IN KOREA

NOVEMBER 9: THE EMPIRE WRITES BACK

NOVEMBER 16: THE POLITICS OF APOLOGY

NOVEMBER 23: KOREAN TV DRAMAS, MIDDLE-AGED JAPANESE WOMEN, AND KOREAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS

NOVEMBER 30: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

DECEMBER 7: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

FINAL PAPER DUE ON DECEMBER 21 AT 11:00 AM