In societies everywhere, childhood and education are topics of debate. How well do schools teach? What kind of history textbooks should children use? What should schools and parents teach about sexuality? This course addresses these and other questions through the history of childhood and education in Japan from the seventeenth century to today.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part consists of ten weeks of discussions based on readings, which will elicit the active involvement of all members of the seminar. The second part is a final paper. Students will work on their paper throughout the duration of the course, choosing a topic, submitting a proposal and bibliography, discussing their work with the instructor, presenting their findings during the final three weeks of the course, and completing the final draft. The three requirements of the course are that students do the readings for each week, come prepared to discuss them, and complete the written assignments.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**PRESENTATIONS AND SHORT ESSAYS**

Each student will be responsible for three short essays. Essay 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 childhood and education in Japan. Selection of a topic should be finalized by March 7. A one
Page description with bibliography is due March 21. You will give a 20 minute presentation of your paper to the class on April 25, May 2, or May 9. The completed paper is due on May 20 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**

Three presentations and essays 12% each  
Final paper 39%  
Weekly discussion points/questions 10%  
Class attendance and participation 15%

Essays are due 24 hours before the beginning of class. Each essay 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 May 20 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 2:20-3:20 pm or by appointment.

Students are encouraged to come see the instructor with questions about any aspect of the course.
**CLASS SCHEDULE**

**FEBRUARY 8: THE EDUCATION OF THE SAMURAI**


**FEBRUARY 15: COULD TOKUGAWA ERA WOMEN AND COMMONERS READ?**


**FEBRUARY 22: FROM ONE ROOM TO ONE SYSTEM**


**FEBRUARY 29: THE INVENTION OF THE CHILD**


**MARCH 7*: THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CHILD?**


*Reminder: Final paper topic due in class on March 7.

**March 14: The Culture of a Student Elite**


**March 21*: Family Life**


*Reminder: Two page description and bibliography of final paper due in class on March 21.

*Reminder: Screening of “Takeshi: Childhood Days (Shonen Jidai)” by Shinoda Masahiro at 7pm on Tuesday, April 3 in King 239.

**April 4: Discipline and Morality in Postwar Japan**


**April 11: Sex Education and Sexuality**


APRIL 18: HISTORY TEXTBOOKS AND WAR MEMORY


APRIL 25: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

MAY 2: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

MAY 9: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

FINAL PAPER DUE ON SUNDAY MAY 20 AT 11:00 AM