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.

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


All other readings are available on Blackboard.

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

- Class participation: 35%
- Two 7-8 page papers: 20% each
- Final exam: 25%

**Paper #1** will be due in class on **Tue. Oct. 7** and **Paper #2** on **Fri. Dec. 12 at 4pm**.

The **Final Examination** is scheduled for **Wed, Dec. 17 from 9-11am**.

**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 the assigned readings and come prepared to discuss the readings.

Assignments are due on (or before) the due date noted above. 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 paper**. (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 Tuesday, Oct. 7 which is turned in on Oct. 8, for example, will get a “B-” rather than the “B” it merited. A “B” paper turned in on Oct. 9 will earn a “C+”, etc.

**Tuesday Response Papers:** A one-page response paper will be due every Tuesday, reflecting 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. Response papers will be collected and count toward the class participation component of assessment.

Note: students may have two “free passes” for the semester exempting them from submission of a weekly response. In addition, there will be no response paper required for weeks 6 and 14.

**Thursday Presentations:** Every Thursday, one student will give a presentation of no more than 15 minutes focused on the week’s readings. The presentation can mirror the format of a response paper, yet should be geared toward introducing questions for discussion to the class as a whole.

**FILM SCREENINGS:** There will be a screening of “Tokyo Story” (*Tokyo Monogatari*) by Director Ozu Yasujirō (1953) on **Monday, Nov. 3 at 7pm** (location: TBA). The film will be discussed during lecture in conjunction with the readings for the week.

**Special Lecture:** On Friday Dec. 5, Professor Ted Bestor, Chair of the Anthropology Department at Harvard University will give a public lecture at Oberlin. Attendance is mandatory for all students in the course. Time: 4:30pm. Location: TBA.

**Writing Assistance:** Students are encouraged to avail of the writing skills workshops offered by the staff of Student Academic Services (SAS) located in Peters 118.

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

**OFFICE HOURS:**
Monday 2:30 – 4pm and Thursday 1-2:30pm
Rice Hall, Room 308
Phone: 5-6708
E-mail: Emer.ODwyer@Oberlin.edu
PART I
Edo: Capital of the Eighteenth Century

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

Sept. 4: Establishment of the Tokugawa Bakufu


Week 2: Building Legitimacy
Sept. 9: Edo Castle and its Jōkamachi (城下町)


Sept. 11: Structure of Political Authority in Edo


- Available on JSTOR


Week 3: Edo Merchant Culture
Sept. 16: The Townsman and Edokko (江戸っ子) 


Sept. 18: Pleasure


- Available on JSTOR

**Week 4: Everyday Life**

**Sept. 23:** Material Culture and Consumption Patterns  


**Sept. 25:**  

**Week 5: Summing Up Edo**

**Sept. 30:** Comparisons  


**Oct. 2:** Allen Museum Visit

**PART II**  
**Tokyo: A New Imperial Capital**

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

**Oct. 7:** Paper #1 Due

**Oct. 9:** The Spectacle of Meiji Tokyo  

• Available on JSTOR

**Week 7: Disaster and Rebuilding**

**Oct. 14:** The Great Kantō Earthquake  

**Oct. 16:** Ethnic Tokyo, Part 1

**Fall Break**

**Week 8: The 1930s and 1940s: Tokyo Modern**  
**Oct. 28:** Nationalism and the City  

**Oct. 30:** Mass Culture and Modernity  

**PART III**  
**Postwar**

**Week 9: Towards Affluence**  
**Monday, Nov. 3:** Film “Tokyo Story” 7pm in Wilder 101.  
(Note: there will be no Tuesday response paper due this week.)

**Nov. 4:** A City of Villages  
Bestor, Theodore. *Neighborhood Tokyo* (Chs. 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 and Conclusion)

**Nov. 6:** Community  
Film: “ALWAYS sanshōme no yūhi” (ALWAYS 三丁目の夕日) (2005)

**Week 10: The Bubble Years**  
**Nov. 11:** Cultures of Excess  


**Nov. 13:** Film: “Minbō no onna” (“The Gentle Art of Japanese Extortion”); Dir. Itami Jūzō (1992)

**Week 11: Soapland**  
**Nov. 18:** Hostess Clubs  
Nov. 20: Work and Gender

**Week 12: The Struggle Years**
Nov. 25: A Faltering Economy & The Search for Identity

**Thanksgiving Break**

**Week 13: Globalization**
Dec. 2: Tsukiji

Dec. 4: Ethnographies: Market as Research Site

**Week 14: Tokyo Today**
Dec. 9: Ethnic Tokyo, Part 2
Tokyo as Muse


Dec. 11: Conclusion

**Paper #2 due Dec. 12 at 4pm.**