

Spring 2014

History 284
Tokyo: 1600-2000

Tu/Th 1:30-2:45
King 241
Office Hours: Tues. 2:45 – 4:15pm
Th. 2:45 – 4:15pm

Professor Emer O'Dwyer
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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.

1. Kawabata Yasunari. *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (1930). Trans. Alisa Freedman. University of California Press, 2005.
2. Murakami Haruki. *Underground: The Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche*, Vintage International, 2001.

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

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING POLICY:

The course grade will be based on the following:

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| • 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 **Thurs. March 20**.

Research Prospectus, Part I (Summary & Prelim. Biblio.) due in class: **Tues. April 22**.

Research Prospectus is due in class on **Tues. May 7**.

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 Thursday, 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.

Note: All written work must be completed and turned in to receive credit for 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 1:30pm for each class meeting. Tardiness of greater than 10 minutes will result in a mark of “absent.”

Tuesday Presentations: Every Tuesday, 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 8pm 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.)

Thursday Response Papers: A one-page double-spaced response paper will be due in class every Thursday, 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.

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.

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:

- Mon., March 3: Choose a topic and submit by e-mail by 4pm.
- Tues., March 4: Meet at Mudd during class-time for research skills session with librarian, Jennifer Starkey.
- Tues. April 8: Preliminary bibliography due for secondary sources materials.
- Tues. April 15: Preliminary bibliography due for primary sources materials.
- Tues. April 22: One-paragraph summary of proposed topic and research question.
- Mon. May 12: Final research proposal due: 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.

Film Screening: “Drunken Angel” (*Yoidore tenshi*, 1948) by Director Kurosawa Akira will be screened on **Wednesday, April 16 at 7pm** (location: TBA).

Special Events:

- Sun., Feb. 16 (11am - 4pm): Trip to Cleveland Museum of Art for viewing of the special exhibit, “Reimagining Tradition” 19th and 20th c. art from the Tokyo National Museum. Sign-up required.
- Thurs, March 6 (class-time): Allen Art Museum for a special tour of the Ainsworth Collection of Japanese prints.
- Thurs., April 17 (4:30pm): Lecture by Professor Greg Levine, Department of Art History, Univ. of California, Berkeley. Time and Location: TBA.

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.

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 2:30 – 4pm and Thursday 2:45 - 4:15pm
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

Feb. 4: Introduction

Feb. 6: Establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate

Cybriwsky, Roman. *Tokyo* (1998): 13-66.

Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan* (2014): 11-34.

Week 2: Building Legitimacy

Feb. 11: Edo Castle and its *Jōkamachi* (城下町) / Structure of Political Authority in Edo
Bodart-Bailey, Beatrice. “Urbanisation and the Nature of the Tokugawa Hegemony,” in *Japanese Capitals in Historical Perspective: Place, Power, and Memory in Kyoto, Edo, and Tokyo* (2003): 100-28.

Katō, Takashi. “Governing Edo,” in McClain, Merriman and Ugawa, eds. *Edo and Paris: Urban Life and the State in the Early Modern Era* (1994): 41-67.

Feb. 13: Spatial Configurations in the Shogunal Capital

Vaporis, Constantin. “To Edo and Back: Alternate Attendance and Japanese Culture in the Early Modern Period,” *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Winter, 1997): 25-67.

- Available on JSTOR

Screech, Timon. “The Strangest Place in Edo. The Temple of the Five Hundred Arhats,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 48, No. 4 (Winter, 1993), pp. 407-428.

- Available on JSTOR

Week 3: Edo Merchant Culture

Feb. 18: The Townsman and His World

Teeuwen, Mark and Kate Wildman Nakai, ed. *Lust, Commerce, and Corruption: An Account of What I Have Seen and Heard, by an Edo Samurai* (trans. of Seiji

kenbunroku by Buyo Inshi). (Columbia University, 2014): ch. 5 (pp. 232-285):
“Townspeople.”

Feb. 20: Pleasure

Markus, Andrew L. “The Carnival of Edo: Misemono Spectacles From Contemporary Accounts.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2 . (Dec., 1985), pp. 499-541.

- Available on JSTOR

Teeuwen and Nakai, eds. *Lust, Commerce, and Corruption*: ch. 6 (309-28):
“Pleasure Districts and Prostitutes.”

**Optional Reading: Hibbett, Howard. *The Chrysanthemum and the Fish: Japanese Humor Since the Age of the Shoguns* (2002): 43-86.

Week 4: Everyday Life

Feb. 25: Consumption Patterns

Nishiyama Matsunosuke. “Edo-Period Cuisine,” in G. Groemer, trans. *Edo Culture* (1997): 144-178.

Vaporis, Constantin. “Digging for Edo: Archaeology and Japan’s Premodern Urban Past,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 53, No. 1 (Spring, 1998): 73-104.

- Available on J-STOR.

Feb. 27: Health and Welfare

Braudel, Fernand. *The Structures of Everyday Life: Civilization and Capitalism 15th – 18th Century*, Vol. 1. (1979; Harper & Row, 1981): Ch. 4 “Superfluity and Sufficiency: Houses, Clothes and Fashion” (selections).

Hanley, Susan B. “Urban Sanitation and Physical Well-Being,” in *Everyday Things in Early Modern Japan* (University of California, 1997): 104-128.

Howell, David L. “Fecal Matters: Prolegomenon to a History of Shit in Japan.” In *Japan at Nature’s Edge: The Environmental Context of a Global Power*. Edited by Ian J. Miller, Julia Adeney Thomas, and Brett L. Walker. (University of Hawai’i, 2013): 137-51.

Week 5: Library and Museum Visits

March 4: Library Session with research librarian, Jennifer Starkey

March 6: 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 11: The Spectacle of Meiji Tokyo

Iwatake Mikako. “From a Shogunal City to a Life City: Tokyo between two *Fin-de-siècles*” in *Japanese Capitals in Historical Perspective* (Routledge, 2003): 233-256.

Tseng, Alice Y. “Styling Japan: The Case of Josiah Conder and the Museum at Ueno.” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 63, No. 4 (Dec. 2004): 472-97.

March 13: Life in the Modern Metropolis

Simmel, Georg. “The Metropolis and Mental Life,” in Richard Sennett, ed. *Classic Essays on the Culture of Cities*. (Prentis-Hall, 1969): 47-60.

Freedman, Alisa. *Tokyo in Transit: Japanese Culture on the Rails and Road*. (Stanford University, 2011): ch. 1 (pp. 27-67): “Eyewitness Accounts: Observations of Salarymen and Schoolgirls on Tokyo’s First Trains.”

Week 7: Disaster and Rebuilding

March 18: The Great Kantō Earthquake

Schencking, J. Charles. “The Great Kantō Earthquake and the Culture of Catastrophe and Reconstruction in 1920s Japan.” *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 2 (Summer 2008): 295-331.

Weisenfeld, Gennifer. *Imaging Disaster: Tokyo and the Visual Culture of Japan’s Great Earthquake of 1923* (University of California, 2012): 83-128.

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

Spring Break

Week 8: Tokyo Modern, The Prewar Years

April 1: The Crimson Gang of Asakusa

Kawabata, Yasunari. *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa*. (1930) (Selections)

Maeda Ai. (trans. Edward Fowler) “Asakusa as Theater: Kawabata Yasunari’s The Crimson Gang of Asakusa,” in *Text and the City: Essays on Japanese Modernity* (Duke University, 2004): 145-62.

April 3: Mass Culture and Modernity

Silverberg, Miriam. *Erotic Grotesque Nonsense* (University of California, 2006): 177-230.

Week 9: War

April 8: Homefront

Cook, Theodore and Haruko. *Japan at War: An Oral History* (New Press, 1992): pp. 177-81; 337-53.

April 10: Wartime Diaries

Keene, Donald. *So Lovely a Country Will Never Perish* (Columbia University, 2010): chs. 1, 4, 5 (pp. 11-27; 63-94).

Yoshizawa Hisako, "Until the War Ended," in Yamashita, Samuel Hideo, ed. *Leaves From An Autumn Of Emergencies: Selections From The Wartime Diaries Of Ordinary Japanese* (University of Hawai'i, 2005): 191-220.

**PART III
Postwar**

Week 10: Rebuilding

April 15*: Tokyo in Ruins

Dower, John. *Embracing Defeat*. (W.W. Norton, 1999): chs. 3-5 (pp. 87-200).

Kovner, Sarah. *Occupying Power* (Stanford, 2012), ch. 3 (pp. 74-98): "When Flesh Glittered: Selling Sex in Tokyo and Sasebo."

April 17: Occupied City

Film Clips: "House of Bamboo" Dir. Samuel Fuller, 1955.

"Gate of Flesh" (*Nikutai no mon*) Dir, Suzuki Seijun, 1964.

***Note: Wed. April 16 at 7pm:** Film screening: "Drunken Angel" (*Yoidore tenshi*, 1948) by Director Kurosawa Akira.

Week 11: High-Growth Era Megalopolis

April 22: The Aspirational '60s

Igarashi Yoshikuni, *Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1945-70* (Princeton, 2000): ch. 5 (pp. 131-163): "From the Anti-Security Treaty Movement to the Tokyo Olympics: Transforming the Body, the Metropolis, and Memory."

- Available on-line through OBIS.

William Marotti, *Money, Trains, and Guillotines: Art and Revolution in 1960s Japan*. (Duke, 2013): ch. 6 (pp. 207-44): “Beyond the Guillotine: Speaking of Art/Art Speaking.”

- Available on-line through OBIS.

April 24: Cultures of Excess

Allison, Anne. *Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club* (University of Chicago, 1994) Parts 1-2 (pp. 31-142).

Week 12: 1990s: The Struggle Years

April 29: A Faltering Economy & The Search for Identity

Murakami Haruki. *Underground: The Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche* (Vintage, 2001) pp. 9-66.

May 1: Aum Shinrikyo and Domestic Terrorism

Murakami, *Underground*, 247-358.

Week 13: 3-11 and After

May 6: 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 8: Concluding Thoughts

Jordan Sand, *Tokyo Vernacular* (University of California, 2013): ch 4: “Museums, Heritage, and Everyday Life,” pp. 110-141.