

Spring 2014

History 160 / EAS 132
Modern Japan

MWF 1:30-2:20 pm
King 337
Office Hours: Tu. 2:45 – 4:15pm
Th. 2:45 – 4:15pm

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This course surveys Japan's modern transformation from the Meiji Restoration of 1868 to the present. It examines how political, social, and economic modernization were simultaneous projects while considering their impact on the lives of citizens at home and imperial subjects abroad. We focus on how economic volatility, popular struggles for representative democracy, war, and colonization represent aspects of Japan's twentieth century experience as well as widely shared dilemmas 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 have been ordered in paperback at the Oberlin Bookstore (basement) as well as placed on reserve at Mudd Library.

1. Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (3rd Edition). Oxford: Oxford University, 2014.
2. De Bary, William Theodore, ed. *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Volume 2, Second Edition, Abridged: Part 2: 1868 to 2000*. New York: Columbia University, 2006.
3. Ishinomori Shōtarō, *Japan Inc.: An Introduction to Japanese Economics*. University of California, 1988.

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

Assessment:

The course grade will be based on the following:

- Mid-term (hour) exam 20%
- 2 Short papers: (1,400 wds.) 20% each
- Final exam 20%
- Attendance/Participation 15%
- Quizzes 5%

Exams: The **Midterm Examination**, covering the lectures and all assigned readings to date will be given in class on **Monday, March 3**. The **Final Examination** is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 14** from 9-11am.

Papers: Students will write two essays (1,400 words each), due **in class** on **Friday, March 21** and **Monday, May 5**.

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.

Expectations:

- Lectures are an integral part of the course, and attendance is mandatory. Absences will be recorded. (In the case of personal or family emergency, students should contact the instructor to make arrangements for completing missed work.) 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.”
- There are three basic types of readings in the course. The first are those from Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*. These readings are useful for reinforcing the chronological narrative presented in lecture. The second type are scholarly articles (book chapters or pieces from edited volumes.) The final type are primary source texts. All three require careful attention to detail and presentation, though strategies for reading differ. Discussions of reading strategies will be discussed in the first weeks of class.
- Reading tips:
 - It is advised that students complete all *non*-primary document readings by the Monday class meeting each week.)
 - Students are expected to come well-prepared for Friday discussion sections by which time all readings *must* be completed. Always bring assigned readings to Friday discussions.
 - Be responsible for both your own and your fellow students’ learning. Together, you can ensure that all class time is spent in a productive discussion of ideas—an endeavor dependent on the *timely and thorough completion of all readings by all*.
- 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.

Weekly Preparations:

- In select weeks, students will be responsible for posting either a question or answer related to assigned readings on the **online discussion board** in Blackboard. Schedules for this assignment will be distributed in the second week of class. Students may expect to post six questions or answers during the course of the semester.
- Be prepared to engage with your classmates on Fridays during the weekly discussion section when we will conduct close readings of assigned primary sources. If you want a good grade in this class, you must participate regularly. Students with concerns regarding this stipulation should talk to the instructor at the start of the semester.
- Quizzes will be conducted at the instructor’s discretion. These will normally occur on Fridays by which date students will be expected to have completed all of the week’s readings.

Audio-Visual Culture Assignment: Students will write a 500-word description of a painting, photograph, sculpture, installation, film, or musical work of their choosing. Students should explain the importance of the chosen work within the context of relevant themes from the history of its period and, if appropriate, discuss cultural or historical allusions embedded in the work. The assignment is due **Friday, Feb. 21**.

Late Policy: All assignments are due on (or before) the date noted in the syllabus. Only one extension will be granted per semester and must be requested during office hours **at least 2 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.

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).

Film Screenings: Two films will be shown during the course of the semester in Wilder 101. The first, “**No Regrets for our Youth**” (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, 1946) by Director Kurosawa Akira will be screened on **Tuesday, April 1 at 7pm**. The second film, “**Tampopo**” (1985) by Director Itami Jūzō will be screened on **Tuesday, April 22 at 7pm**. Both films will be available for viewing on library reserve if you cannot make the screenings. Films will be discussed during lecture in conjunction with the readings for the week.

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., April 17 (4:30pm): Lecture by Professor Greg Levine, Department of Art History, Univ. of California, Berkeley. Time and Location: TBA.

- Thurs., May 1 (4:30pm): Special Guest Lecture by Professor Kenneth Mori McElwain, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan.

Writing Assistance: Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center in Mudd where tutors from the Writing Associates Program can provide tips and strategies for improving writing skills.

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.

LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Japan's Modern Revolution

Feb 3 (M)	Introduction; Meiji Restoration
Feb 5 (W)	Dismantling Feudalism, Creating a Nation-State
Feb 7 (F)	Discussion of Primary Sources

Readings:

Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan (MHJ)*, ch. 5.

Primary Sources*:

“Memorial on the Proposal to Return the Registers,” pp. 10-12

“Imperial Rescript on the Abolition of the *Han*,” p. 12.

Conscription Ordinance, 1873. [Blackboard]

**All entries under “Primary Sources” can be found in Sources of Japanese Tradition, (Vol. 2, Part 2) unless otherwise noted.*

Week 2: Defining Modernity

Feb 10 (M)	Civilization and Enlightenment
*Feb 12 (W)	Freedom and Popular Rights, 1873-1889
Feb. 14 (F)	Discussion of Primary Sources

There will be a map quiz at the beginning of class on Wednesday, Feb. 12.

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 6.

Soviak, Eugene. “On the Nature of Western Progress: The Journal of the Iwakura Mission,” in Shively, ed. *Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture*, pp. 7-34.

[Blackboard]

Primary Sources:

“Consequences of the Iwakura Mission: Saigō and Ōkubo on Korea,” pp. 17-24.
“Kido’s Observations on Returning from the West,” pp. 16-17.
Mori Arinori, “On Wives and Concubines,” p. 43-44.
Itō Hirobumi, “Memorial on Constitutional Government, Dec. 1880,” pp. 59-61.
Chiba Takusaburō, “The Way of the King” (1882), pp. 62-64.
Nakae Chōmin. *A Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government* (1887), p. 64.

Week 3: Building Modernity

Feb. 17 (M) Building Modernity
Feb. 19 (W) Modern Economic Growth
Feb. 21 (F) **Audio-Visual Culture assignment due.**

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 7.

Czarnecki, Melanie. “Bad Girls from Good Families: the Degenerate Meiji Schoolgirl,” in Miller, ed., *Bad Girls of Japan*. (2005): pp. 49-64.

[Blackboard]

Primary Sources:

“The Constitution of 1889,” pp. 76-79.
Fukuzawa Yukichi, “An Encouragement of Learning,” pp. 92-94.
Motoda Eifu, “Great Principles of Education,” pp. 96-98.
“Imperial Rescript on Education,” pp. 108-10.
“Progress of Female Education in Meiji,” pp. 115-16.

Week 4: The Meiji Wars

Feb. 24 (M) 1890s: New Concepts of “Japanese-ness”
Feb. 26 (W) War with China, 1894-95 / War with Russia, 1904-05
Feb. 28 (F) The Battle of Tsushima

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 8.

Keene, Donald. “The Sino-Japanese War and its Cultural Effects in Japan,” in Shively, ed. *Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture*, pp. 121-75.

Roden, Donald. “Baseball and the Quest for National Dignity in Meiji Japan,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 85, No. 3 (Jun., 1980): 511-34.

Primary Sources:

“Tokutomi Sohō: A Japanese Nationalist’s View of the West and Asia,” pp. 127-28.

“Tokutomi Sohō: Supporting the Imperial State and Military Expansion;” “Rejoicing Over Victory in the Sino-Japanese War;” “Resentment Resulting from the Triple Intervention,” pp. 132-33.

Week 5: Generating Capitalism

March 3 (M) **In-class Midterm**
March 5 (W) Empire Attained and Industrialization Begun
March 7 (F) Factory Girls

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 9. (Review *MHJ*, ch. 7.)
Tsurumi, *Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan*, pp. 25-46; 92-102; 191-98. **[Blackboard]**

Nolte, Sharon, H. and Sally Hastings. “The Meiji State’s Policy Toward Women, 1890-1910,” in Bernstein, ed., *Recreating Japanese Women*, pp. 151-74.

Week 6: Prewar Liberalism

March 10 (M) A Politicized Citizenry, An Enlarged Electorate
March 12 (W) *Minponshugi* / Contention in the Workplace
March 14 (F) Discussion

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 10.

Primary Sources:

Kōtoku Shūsui, “The Change in My Thought,” pp. 218-22.
Yoshino Sakuzō, “Democracy as *Minponshugi*,” pp. 163-80.

Week 7: Alternative Modernities

March 17 (M) The End of Capitalism?; The Rise and Fall of Party Cabinets
March 19 (W) Visions of a New Society
March 21 (F) **Paper #1 due in class.**

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 11.

Spring Recess

Week 8: Depression, War, Defeat

*March 31 (M) From Internationalism to Isolationism
April 2 (W) Imperial Japan at War
April 4 (F) Total Defeat

Film (Required): “No Regrets for our Youth” (*Waga seishun ni kuinashi*, 1946) by Director Kurosawa Akira on Tuesday, April 1 at 7pm in Wilder 101.

Readings:

MHJ, ch. 12.

Dower, John W. *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*. (1993). Chs. 4, 5, 9 (pp. 77-117; 234-61). [**Available on-line through OBIS**]

Primary Sources:

“Shidehara Kijūrō: Conciliatory Diplomacy,” (1930) pp. 208-211.

“The Decision for War with the United States,” (1941) pp. 309-12.

Yokoyama Ryūichi, “Cartoons for the War.” In Haruko and Theodore Cook, eds., *Japan at War: An Oral History* (1992): pp. 95-99. [**Blackboard**]

Week 9: Transwar

April 7 (M) Reckoning and Repatriation

April 9 (W) Rebuilding

April 11 (F) Recreation

Readings:

Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, chs. 2, 4, 6.

Primary Sources:

“Imperial Rescript on Surrender,” (1945) pp. 317-19.

“The 1947 Constitution,” pp. 330-37.

Ōe Kenzaburō, “Growing up during the Occupation,” (1965) pp. 374-77.

Week 10: The High-Growth Era, 1956-1973

*April 14 (M) Citizen, State, and Democracy in the Postwar Era

April 16 (W) Middle Class Life for Everyone?

April 18 (F) Social Revolutions

Readings:

MHJ, Chs. 14-15.

Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, ch. 17 (pp. 525-46)

Kushner, Barak. “*Gojira* as Japan’s First Postwar Media Event,” in William M. Tsutsui and Michiko Itō, eds., *In Godzilla’s Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage* (2006): pp. 41-50. [**Available on-line through OBIS**]

Primary Sources:

Nakasone Yasuhiro, “The ‘MacArthur’ Constitution,” (1953) pp. 388-89.

Week 11: The ‘80s Boom

April 21 (M) The Making of the Bubble
April 23 (W) Japan on the World Stage
April 25 (F) Japan, Inc.

Film (Required): “Tampopo” (1985) by Director Itami Jūzō on Tuesday, April 22 at 7pm in Wilder 101.

Readings:

MHJ, Ch. 16.

Ishinomori Shōtarō. *Japan Inc.: An Introduction to Japanese Economics*.

Primary Sources:

Ishihara Shintarō, *The Japan that Can Say No*. chs. 2-3 (pp. 26-41). **[Blackboard]**

Week 12: The ‘Lost Decade’ of the ‘90s

April 28 (M) The Bubble Bursts and the End of LDP Dominance
April 30 (W) Aum Shinrikyō and New Limits on a Free Society
May 2 (F) New Social Phenotypes & Murakami, *Underground*

Primary Source:

Murakami Haruki. *Underground: The Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche* (1997; trans. 2001), pp. 3-58; 247-64; 333-64. **[Blackboard]**

Nathan, John. “Tokyo Story,” *The New Yorker* (April 9, 2001): pp. 108-15. **[Blackboard]**

Week 13: Issues for the 21st Century

May 5 (M) **Paper #2 due in class.** Constitutional Revision and War Memory
May 7 (W) Future Concerns
May 9 (F) Concluding Thoughts

Readings:

MHJ, Ch. 18.

Primary Sources:

Kiyama Terumichi, “Meeting at Yasukuni Shrine.” In Haruko and Theodore Cook, eds., *Japan at War: An Oral History* (1992): pp. 447-53. **[Blackboard]**

Fujiwara Akira, “How to View the Nanjing Incident,” (1998) pp. 563-65.

Kobayashi Yoshinori, “On War,” (1998) pp. 565-68.

Ishizaka Kei, “A Just War,” (1991) pp. 569-73.

Final Exam: Wednesday, May 14 from 9-11am.

