

HIST 288 Japan Since 1800
Spring 2012
MWF 11:00- 11:50/Buckman 216

Instructor: Seok-Won Lee
Office: Buckman 205
Office Hours: MW 09:30 – 10:50 or TBA
Email: lees@rhodes.edu
Tel) 901-843-3405

Course Description

This course is designed to provide the students with a general understanding of Japan's history since 1800. Topics in this course include general issues in the process of modernization such as industrialization, construction of mass culture, development of science and technology, and modern formation of everyday life. This course also focuses on particular issues in modern Japanese history such as the impact of the West, colonialism and imperialism, (post)war and democracy.

Although this course is a general survey course for undergraduate students, it intends to challenge the constructed images of Japanese history and culture. For this purpose, issues on trans-national and trans-cultural history will be considered throughout the course.

Requirements and Grades

1. Presentation (minimum 1000 words) (15%)

The format of this course is designed to encourage students' participation. A student-led discussion and debate will take place on Fridays. (11:00 – 11:50) To provide a point of departure each week, Every week, one (or possibly two) students will prepare short papers, 4-5 pages long, either in response to this question or in reaction against it. **By noon on Thursday** during the week that each paper is to be discussed, the papers will be photocopied and made available to me (205 Buckman Hall) and to the other members of the seminar in HIST 288.

2. One Response Paper (minimum 1000 words) (15%)

Of the reading materials I have assigned each week, you should choose and analyze one or two materials and write one response paper (minimum 1000 words). You can choose any reading materials between WEEK 2 and WEEK 15, however, you must submit your paper by **Friday Class** of the week your reading is assigned.

3. Map Quiz (5%)

4. Mid-term (30%)

5. Final Exam (30%)

6. Participation in Regular Class and Discussion (5%): If you are absent more than 4 times without reasonable explanations, your grade will result in an F.

Codes on Academic Ethics

Each student in this course is strongly expected to abide by Rhodes College's Honor Code. All papers and exams must be based on your own work. **Plagiarism will result in an F in any case.** If you have questions on this, you can always consult with the instructor.

Civility and Etiquette in Classroom

To create and preserve a classroom atmosphere that optimizes teaching and learning, all participants share a responsibility in creating a civil and non-disruptive forum. Students are expected to conduct themselves at all times in this classroom in a manner that does not disrupt teaching or learning.

1. You are expected to be on time. You should be in your seat and ready to begin class at 11:00. Packing up your things early is disruptive to others around you and to the instructor.
2. Classroom participation is a part of your grade in this course. To participate, you must attend class having prepared the materials for the day. Questions and comments must be relevant to the topic at hand.
3. Classroom discussion should be civilized and respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic we are discussing. Classroom discussion is meant to allow us to hear a variety of viewpoints. This can only happen if we respect each other and our differences. Any discussion from class that continues on any listserv or class discussion list should adhere to these same rules and expectations.
- 4. ALL MOBILE DEVICES MUST BE TURNED OFF IN THE CLASSROOM.**

Disability Services

Rhodes College is committed to providing all students a liberal arts education through a personalized learning environment. If you think you have or you do have a documented disability which will need reasonable academic accommodations, please contact Melissa Butler, Director of Student Disability Services, at butlerm@rhodes.edu or call 843-3885.

Course Materials (available at the Bookstore)

- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2008). **2nd edition**, ISBN: 978-0195339222
- John Okada, *No-no boy* (Seattle : University of Washington Press, 1978), ISBN: 9780295955254
- **Electronic Reserve:** All other reading materials are available in a PDF format in Professor Lee's folder.

Week 1: Introduction

Jan 11 Introduction (No Readings required)

Jan 13 Studying Japan and Japanese History (No Readings Required)

Week 2 Toward the Modern

Jan 16 No Class (**Martin Luther King Day**)

Jan 18 The Tokugawa Regime

Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, 11-34.

Jan 20 Late Tokugawa and Its Collapse (Lecture & Discussion)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 34-59.

Kato Hidetoshi, "The Significance of the Period of National Seclusion," Journal of Japanese Studies 7-1 (Winter 1981), 85-109.

Question for Discussion: Did Japan's seclusion cause the coming of Western Powers in the 19th century?

Week 3 The Meiji Restoration

Jan 23 Japan's Encounter with the West and The Meiji Restoration

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 61-75

Jan 25 Modern Japanese Intellectuals

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 76- 92

Jan 27 Fukuzawa Yukichi and Japan (Discussion)

Albert Craig, "The Central Government," in Marius B. Jansen and Gilbert Rozman eds., Japan in Transition, from Tokugawa to Meiji (Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1986), 36-67.

Fukuzawa Yukichi, David A. Dilworth & G. Cameron Hurst III trans., An Outline of a Theory of Civilization (New York: Columbia University Press, 2008), 8-58.

Questions for Discussion: How did Fukuzawa envision a modern Japan and position it in East Asia?

Week 4 The Emperor and the People

Jan 30 Emperor the Meiji and Restoration

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 93-98

Feb 1 Women in Meiji Japan

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 99-112

Feb 3 New Society and New Subjects (Discussion)

Takashi Fujitani, Splendid Monarchy: Power and Pageantry in Modern Japan (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), 1-28.

Sharon L. Sievers, Flowers in Salt: The Beginnings of Feminist Consciousness (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1983), 1-25.

Question for Discussion: During the process of modernization, how were the Emperor and Women redefined in 19th century Japan?

Week 5 Center and Periphery: The Rise of Imperial Japan

Feb 6 Japan Becomes an Empire

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 113-125

Feb 8 Nationalism and Its Borders

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 125-137

Feb 10 Minorities (Discussion)

Tessa Morris Suzuki, Re-inventing Japan: Time, Space and Nation (Armonk, N.Y. : M.E. Sharpe, 1998), 9-34.

Alan Christy, "The Making of Imperial Subjects in Okinawa," Positions: east Asia cultures critique 1-3 (Winter, 1993), 607-639.

Question for Discussion: What kind of a role did the logic of civilizing mission play in the making of Imperial Japan in the early 20th century?

Week 6 Imperial Democracy and Everyday Life

Feb 13 Everyday Life

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 139-160

Feb 15 Japan in the Age of Empire

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 161-180

Feb 17 "Modern" Subjects (Discussion)

Barbara Sato, "The Moga Sensation: Perceptions of the Modan Garu in Japanese Intellectual Circles During the 1920s," Gender and History 5-3 (Autumn 1993), 363-381.

Elise Tipton, "Intellectual Life and Culture" in William Tsutui ed., A Companion to Japanese History (MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2007), 189-206.

Question for Discussion: Did "Western culture" become a watershed of modernization in 20th century Japan?

Week 7 Japan in the World + Mid-term

Feb 20 Taisho Japan and Japan in the World + **Mid-term Review**

Feb 22 Study Period (No Class)

Feb 24 **Mid-term**

Week 8 The Colonies

Feb 27 Colonial Discourses and Practice

Feb 29 Living in the Colonies

Mar 2 Becoming Japanese (Discussion)

Hildi Kang, Under the Black Umbrella : Voices from Colonial Korea, 1910-1945 (Ithaca, N.Y. ; London : Cornell University Press, 2001), excerpts.

Leo T.S. Ching, Becoming "Japanese" : Colonial Taiwan and the Politics of Identity Formation (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), 51-88.

Question for Discussion: How were “Japan” and “Japaneseness” redefined as Japan became an imperial power?

Week 9 Spring Break

Week 10 Imperial Japan

Mar 12 Japan in Crisis

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 182-191

Mar 14 Toward a New Social and Economic Order

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 191-201

Mar 16 Manchukuo (Discussion)

Louise Young, “Imagined Empire: The Colonial Construction of Manchukuo,” in Ramon H. Myers and Mark R. Peattie eds., The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945 (Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, 1984), 71-96.

Sun-Jung Han, “The Problem of Sovereignty : Manchukuo, 1932-1937,” Positions: east Asian cultures critique 12-2 (Fall 2004), 457-478.

Question for Discussion: Was Manchukuo a land of opportunity or a new experimental site for colonial violence?

Week 11 Imperial Japan and Total War

Mar 19 **Documentary Showing**: Japan’s War in Colour

Mar 21 Total War

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 201-223

MAR 21 6PM Film Showing (Movie Night): Grave of the Fireflies, directed by Takahata Isao (90 minutes)

Mar 23 Memory and Responsibility (Discussion)

Regine Mathias, “Women and the War Economy in Japan,” in Erich Pauer ed. Japan’s War Economy (London ; New York : Routledge, 1999), 65-84.

George Hicks, “The “Comfort Women”” in Peter Duus, Ramon H. Myers, and Mark R. Peattie eds. The Japanese wartime empire, 1931-1945 (Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c1996), 305-323.

Question for Discussion: How did the total war redefine Women in Imperial Japan?

Week 12 Constructing Postwar Japan

Mar 26 Remembering and Forgetting War : The Emperor in Question
Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 224-241

Mar 28 GHQ and Constructing Postwar Japan
Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 224-241

Mar 30 The Question of Democracy (Discussion)
“Peace and Democracy in Two Systems: External Policy and Internal Conflict,” in
Andrew Gordon, ed., Postwar Japan As History, (Berkeley: University of California
Press, 1993), 3-33.

Question for Discussion: How did war memory and the experience of the atomic
bombs construct postwar Japanese society?

Week 13 Cold War and Japan

Apr 2 Colonialism in Postcolonial East Asia
6PM:Film Showing (Movie Night): Rikidozan, directed by Hae-Sung Song (2004),
144 minutes

Apr 4 Reading No-No Boy (Discussion)
John Okada, No-no boy (Seattle : University of Washington Press, 1978).

Apr 6 **Good Friday (No Class)**

Week 14 Postwar Japan: Economic Miracle and Civil Society

Apr 9 The Myth of the Middle Class Ideology
Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 243-267

Apr 11 Economic Miracle and Political Tension
Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 268-288

Apr 13 Gender and Labor (Discussion)
Mary Brinton, Women and the Economic miracle : Gender and Work in Postwar Japan
(Berkeley : University of California Press, 1992), 24-70.
Christena Turner, “The Spirit of Productivity : Workplace Discourse on Culture and
Economics in Japan,” in Masao Miyoshi and H.D. Harootunian eds. Japan in the
World (Durham & London: Duke University Press, 1993), 144-159.

Question for Discussion: Did the postwar economic miracle in Japan represent
“Japaneseness”?

Week 15 Japan in the World

Apr 16 Japan as Number One

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 289-307

Apr 18 Japan's Lost Decade

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 308-321

Apr 20 Japan's Lost Decade (Discussion)

Tomiko Yoda, "A Long Roadmap to Millennial Japan," in Tomiko Yoda and Harry Harootunian eds. Japan after Japan : social and cultural life from the recessionary 1990s to the present (Durham : Duke University Press, 2006), 16-53.

Question for Discussion: Will Japan be a rising sun in the 21st century?

Week 16 Japan in the 21st Century

Apr 23 The 3-11 Earthquake and Japan (HANDOUT)

Apr 25 Course Evaluation/ **Final Review**

Final Exam