

HIST 288 Japan Since 1800

Spring 2013

T/Th 03:30- 04:45 /Buckman 212

Instructor: Seok-Won Lee

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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 Thursdays. 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 Wednesday** 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 material(s) between WEEK 2 and WEEK 15. However, you must submit your paper by **Thursday class** of the week your reading is assigned.

3. Reading Quiz (20%)

There will be an in-class discussion every Thursday. To facilitate in-class discussion and make sure that students read assigned texts, there will be a simple quiz for assigned readings. Students are asked to answer one or two basic questions about the text.

4. Map Quiz (5%)

5. Mid-term (20%)

6. Final Exam (20%)

7. 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. 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.
2. 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.
- 3. 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 10 Introduction (No Readings required)

Week 2 Toward the Modern

Jan 15 Japanese History in the Global Context

Documentary Showing: Japan: Memoirs of A Secret Empire (PBS, 2004)

Jan 17 Late Tokugawa Period and Its Collapse (**MAP QUIZ**)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 11-59.

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 22 The Meiji Restoration

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 61-75

Jan 24 Modern Japanese Intellectuals and Fukuzawa Yukichi

(Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 76- 92

Fukuzawa Yukichi, "On De-Asianization," in Center for East Asian Cultural Studies (ed), Meiji Japan Through Contemporary Sources III (Tokyo: Center for East Asian Cultural Studies, 1973), 129-133.

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 29 Emperor and the People

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 93-98

Jan 31 Women and New Subjects in Meiji Japan

(Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 99-112

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 5 Japan Becomes an Empire

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 113-125

Feb 7 Nationalism and Its Borders (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 125-137

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

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 12 Modernization and Everyday Life

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 139-160

Feb 14 Modernity and Its Shadows (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 161-180

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.

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

Week 7 Japan in the World + Mid-term

Feb 19 Colonial Discourses and Practice (Discussion)

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

Feb 21 Living in the Colonies (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

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 8 Mid-Term

Feb 26 **Mid-term Review**

Feb 28 **Mid-term**

Week 9 Imperial Japan

Mar 5 Japan in Crisis

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 182-191

Mar 7 Manchukuo: Toward a New Social and Economic Order

(Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion)

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 191-201

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.

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

Week 10 Spring Break

Week 11 Imperial Japan and Total War

Mar 19 Total War

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 201-223

Mar 21 **No Class** (Professor Lee will present a paper at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference)

- **Students are required to watch Japan's War in Colour** through the Rhodes Library streaming service

Week 12 Total War and Its Aftermath

Mar 26 Memories of War:

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 201-223

In class Film Showing (Movie Night): Grave of the Fireflies, directed by Takahata Isao (90 minutes)

Mar 28 Memory and Responsibility **(Reading Quiz + In-Class 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 13 Constructing Postwar Japan

Apr 2 Remembering and Forgetting War : The Emperor in Question

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 224-241

Apr 4 GHQ and Constructing Postwar Japan **(Reading Quiz + In-Class 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 14 Cold War and Japan

Apr 9 Colonialism in Postcolonial East Asia

Apr 11 Reading *No-No Boy* (**Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion**)

John Okada, No-no boy (Seattle : University of Washington Press, 1978).

Week 15 Postwar Japan: Economic Miracle and Civil Society

Apr 16 The Myth of the Middle Class Ideology

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 243-267

Apr 18 Economic Miracle and Political Tension

Reading Quiz + In-Class Discussion

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 268-288

Mary Brinton, Women and the Economic miracle : Gender and Work in Postwar Japan (Berkeley : University of California Press, 1992), 24-70.

(Suggested Reading)

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 16 Japan in the World

Apr 23 Japan as Number One

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 289-307

Apr 25 Japan's Lost Decade + Course Evaluation

Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 308-321

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?

Final Exam