

Prof. Michael R. Drompp  
Clough 309  
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Office hours: M & W 2:00 - 3:00, Th 3:00 - 4:00, and by appointment

### **HISTORY 375: Modern Japan**

**Tu & Th 1:00 - 2:30 PM (O hour), Buckman 329**

#### **Required texts for purchase:**

Lu, David J. *Japan: A Documentary History, vol. 2: The Late Tokugawa Period to the Present*

Tanizaki, Jun'ichiro. *In Praise of Shadows*

Jansen, Marius. *Japan and Its World*

Hane, Mikiso. *Peasants, Rebels, and Outcastes: The Underside of Modern Japan*

Tanizaki, Jun'ichiro. *Naomi*

Dower, John. *War without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*

Bumiller, Elisabeth. *The Secrets of Mariko*

This course examines Japan's transition from a closed, traditional society through the processes of modernization, imperial expansion, defeat and occupation to its postwar recovery and emergence as a global economic power. We will investigate the values that have informed Japanese society during this tumultuous era of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and attempt to analyze those changes which have affected traditional values as Japan has transformed itself into a modern society and member of the global community.

#### **Requirements for the course include:**

1. Regular class attendance and alert participation
2. Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials and intelligent assessment of audiovisual resources
3. One research paper (minimum of 7000 words), due on 14 March
4. Three exams (including the final exam)

Additional readings, quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audiovisual materials. Your paper is due in class at the beginning of the class period. **Late work will not be accepted.** For your paper, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential. **Errors of this type will be penalized.** If you use a computer to write your paper, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Always keep a hard copy (i.e., a copy on paper) of each draft of your paper. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness.

**This course is a seminar.** Therefore, thoughtful classroom participation is necessary for successful performance and will be considered in the calculation of the final grade for the course. **In order to competently discuss the assigned readings, you must bring the reading(s) to class.** Excessive absences and disruptive behavior in the classroom may

result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Two (2) unexcused absences are allowed; excessive absences (i.e., 6 or more) may result in the student being dropped from the course or in an "F" for the final course grade. Final grades will be based approximately 2/3 on written work and approximately 1/3 on classroom participation according to the following general formula: exams 600 points (3 x 200 points each), research paper 400 points, classroom participation 500 points, for a total of 1300 points. Extra credit will not be permitted. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of legitimate, documented reasons; if you are wondering if your reason is legitimate, it probably is not. Note that a "W" (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

**All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes Honor Code.** Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the College. In your paper, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else's information/material without properly citing the source of that information/material). **You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not.** In your paper and exams, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion. Studying together can be an excellent way to learn, but can (in extreme cases) lead to disconcerting similarities. Such extreme instances of similarities in exams or the paper may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

## **SYLLABUS**

**The syllabus indicates which pages are to be completed PRIOR TO that day's class.**

### Week 1

Jan. 13 Th Introduction to the course and texts  
Fundamental concepts of Japanese history

**Plan ahead:** Your research paper is due on Tuesday, 14 March. This paper must have a minimum length of 7000 words in length, double-spaced and typed. It is to be on a topic of your choice (and approved by me) that focuses on modern Japanese history as defined by this course. Your paper must have an original and meaningful title, a well-supported thesis/argument with a conclusion, as well as endnotes (not parenthetical annotation) and a bibliography in proper form. The final word count must be included in the title page. Note that you must have your topic developed by Thursday, 27 January. A preliminary bibliography and outline -- which must include a paragraph stating your thesis and plan of research -- are due on Thursday, 10 February.

### Week 2

Jan. 18 Tu Japanese culture: native impetus and foreign influence  
READING: Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows*

Jan 20 Th Problems of the late Tokugawa *bakufu*  
READING: Jansen, pp. 3-39

Week 3

Jan. 25 Tu The decline of the Tokugawa *bakufu* and the coming of Perry

READING: Lu, pp. 273-295

**Note the useful appendices contained in this book.**

**Jan. 27 Th** The Meiji Restoration

READING: Lu, pp. 296-314

Thomas C. Smith, "Japan's Aristocratic Revolution" (handout)

**PAPER TOPIC DUE**

Week 4

Feb. 01 Tu The Meiji system

READING: Jansen, pp. 41-73 and Lu, pp. 314-344

Feb. 03 Th Meiji reforms and expansionism

READING: Lu, pp. 345-373

Week 5

Feb. 08 Tu Changes in Meiji society and the end of the Meiji period

READING: Hane, pp. 2-101

**Feb. 10 Th** The early Taishō period

READING: Lu, pp. 375-394

**PRELIMINARY BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OUTLINE DUE**

Week 6

**Feb. 15 Tu** **FIRST EXAM** (bring bluebooks)

**Plan ahead:** Begin reading Tanizaki's *Naomi* for discussion on Tuesday, 24 February. In your reading, be particularly sensitive to the ways in which this novel deals with the difficulties of balancing tradition and modernization (Westernization?) in Japan in the 1920s.

Feb. 17 Th The costs of modernization

READING: Hane, pp. 102-136, 173-245

Week 7

Feb. 22 Tu The era of party rule

READING: Lu, pp. 394-408

Feb. 24 Th The question of tradition *versus* modernization

READING: Tanizaki, *Naomi* (entire)

Week 8

Feb. 29 Tu The rise of militarism

READING: Masao Maruyama: "Theory and Psychology of Ultra-Nationalism"  
(handout)

Mar. 02 Th Japanese expansionism  
READING: Lu, pp. 409-424

**Mar. 07 Tu SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS**

**Mar. 09 Th SPRING BREAK -- NO CLASS**

Week 9

**Mar. 14 Tu NO CLASS -- PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M.**

**Deliver your paper to the History Office, Clough 308**

Mar. 16 Th War in China and increasing hostilities with the U.S.  
READING: Lu, pp. 424-442

Week 10

Mar. 21 Tu The war in the Pacific (I)  
READING: Dower, pp. 3-200

Mar. 23 Th The war in the Pacific (II)  
READING: Dower, pp. 203-317 and Lu, pp. 443-458

Week 11

**Mar. 28 Tu SECOND EXAM** (bring bluebooks)

Mar. 30 Th The U.S. Occupation  
READING: Lu, pp. 459-504

Week 12

Apr. 04 Tu Post-occupation politics  
READING: Lu, pp. 505-524

Apr. 06 Th Japan's economic recovery  
READING: Lu, pp. 525-562

Week 13

Apr. 11 Tu Changes in postwar society  
READING: Hane, pp. 139-171, 247-269

Apr. 13 Th Japan's search for a role in the world  
READING: Jansen, pp. 75-116

Week 14

Apr. 18 Tu Japan in the modern  
READING: Lu, pp. 563-618

**Apr. 20 Th EASTER RECESS -- NO CLASS**

Week 15

Apr. 25 Tu Modern Japanese society

READING: Bumiller, pp. 1-178

Apr. 27 Th Modern Japanese society, continued

READING: Bumiller, pp. 179-332

**May 02 Tu FINAL EXAM (bring bluebooks) -- 1:00 - 3:30 PM**