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HIST 388-01, Modern Japan Fall 2005

Item Type	Syllabus
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Publisher	Memphis, Tenn. : Rhodes College
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Download date	2025-05-22 04:21:06
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10267/1382

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HISTORY 388: Modern Japan

CRN # 10343

Tu & Th 11:00 - 12:15 PM, Buckman 325

Required texts for purchase:

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

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

McClain, James. *Japan: A Modern History*

Nothomb, Amélie. *Fear and Trembling*

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

Walthall, Anne, ed. *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan*

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:

- Regular class attendance and alert participation
- Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials and intelligent assessment of audiovisual resources
- Active involvement in classroom discussion of readings, including the leading of discussions when assigned.
- One research paper (approximately 6000 words, not including footnotes or bibliography)
- Two exams (a midterm and a final)

Additional quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short writing assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the assigned texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audio-visual materials. Written assignments are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Late work will not be accepted. For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential, as are correct forms for footnotes and bibliography. Be certain to use proper form in your papers. Errors of this type will be penalized. If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness. Always keep a hard copy (a copy on paper) of each draft of your paper. Your paper should have a title page with a meaningful title, your name, and the paper's final word count. Your paper must include page numbers as well as footnotes and a bibliography in proper format.

Thoughtful classroom participation is encouraged and will constitute a substantive portion of the final grade for the course. Discussions of assigned readings, particularly those regarding the analysis of primary sources, are especially important. If you do not participate in such discussions through thoughtful comments based on careful reading of the assigned texts, your classroom participation grade will suffer. In order to facilitate such discussions, you will be called upon at random to deliver a brief (no more than three minutes) commentary on assigned readings from David Lu's book of documents. That is, I will call on at least one of you to comment on each document (asking you to consider questions such as: Who wrote this? Why? What does it illustrate about Japan's history? How does it relate to the information in McClain's book?). You should be prepared for this. The best strategy is to make brief notes on each document so that you can refer to those notes in class if you are called upon. You will also be expected to be able to comment on the other readings as well. As with the documents in Lu's book, you should be able to point out the most important themes and ideas presented in the assigned texts when called upon to do so. Again, a good strategy is to make brief notes on your readings and have them with you for the classroom discussions.

Excessive absences and/or disruptive behavior in the classroom will result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Two absences are allowed without penalty; excessive absences (i.e., six or more) will result in the student being dropped from the course or in an "F" for the final course grade. A good rule of thumb: Do not expect to get a final grade higher than the percentage of classes you attended (e.g.: If you attend 80% of all scheduled class meetings, you should not expect a final grade higher than 80%: a B-). Respect for all persons in the classroom is essential. For that reason, you should avoid disruptive behavior such as arriving late, leaving early, or stepping out of the classroom during class. Cell phones and beepers should be turned off before entering the classroom.

Final grades will be based approximately on the following formula:

- exams, 500 points (250 points each)
- research paper, 500 points
- classroom participation, 500 points (including quizzes)

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 excuse is legitimate, it probably is not. Failure to complete any graded assignment will result in a failing grade for the course. 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 papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else's information/material/ideas without properly citing the source(s) of the information/material/ideas in question). Plagiarism is a violation of the honor code, and will result in a grade of "F" for the course. Consequently, in all your papers, you must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not. Note that the Rhodes Honor Council's constitution states: "A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following: (1) quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written; (2) paraphrases another person's actual words, either oral or written; (3) uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; and (4) borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material unless the information is common knowledge." Such credit is done through proper documentation in footnotes. Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments and exams. Extreme instances of similarities in exams or papers may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

Your research paper (approximately 6000 words) is to be on a topic of your choice (and approved by me) that focuses on modern Japanese history from the late Tokugawa era to the 1980s. Your paper must have an original and meaningful title, a well-supported thesis/argument with a clear conclusion, as well as footnotes (not parenthetical annotation) and a bibliography in proper form. Note that you must have your topic developed by Thursday, 8 September. A research proposal (2-3 pages, double spaced, indicating your proposed topic, your reasons for choosing it, and your planned approach to it) is due on that date. A preliminary bibliography (a minimum of 15 print items) and outline are due on Tuesday, 20 September. The final paper is due on Thursday, 3 November. A final note: The internet can be a useful means of locating information. It also is not refereed in any way, and consequently is the home of much misinformation as well. Therefore, internet sources are not to be used in the writing of your paper unless you have cleared them with me in advance.

SYLLABUS

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

Week 1

Aug. 25 Th Introduction to the course

Week 2

Aug. 30 Tu Japanese culture: native impetus and foreign influence
 READING: Tanizaki, **entire**

Sept. 01 Th The Tokugawa System
 READING: McClain, pp. 5-47
 Walthall, pp. 1-42

Week 3

Sept. 06 Tu Tokugawa Society
 READING: McClain, pp. 48-112

 08 Th The decline of the Tokugawa *bakufu* and the coming of Perry
 READING: McClain, pp. 119-154
 Lu, pp. 273-295 (Note the useful appendices
 in this book!)

Research proposal due

Week 4

Sept. 13 Tu The Meiji Revolution
 READING: McClain, pp. 155-182
 Lu, pp. 296-314

 15 Th The Meiji system
 READING: McClain, pp. 183-206
 Lu, pp. 314-344

Week 5

- Sept. 20 Tu Meiji reforms and expansionism
READING: McClain, pp. 207-245, 283-315
Lu, pp. 345-373
Preliminary bibliography and outline due
- 22 Th Changes in Meiji society and the end of the Meiji period
READING: McClain, pp. 246-275
Hane, pp. 3-27
Walthall, pp. 45-76

Week 6

- Sept. 27 Tu The early Taishō period
READING: McClain, pp. 316-356
Lu, pp. 375-394
- 29 Th The costs of modernization
READING: Hane, 29-245

Week 7

- Oct. 04 Tu The era of party rule
READING: McClain, pp. 357-397
Lu, pp. 394-408
- 06 Th Political reform and radicalism
READING: Hane, pp. 247-292
Walthall, pp.155-192

Week 8

- Oct. 11 Tu The rise of militarism
READING: McClain, pp. 405-440
- 13 Th **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 9

- Oct. 18 Tu **FALL BREAK - NO CLASS**
- 20 Th Japanese expansionism
READING: Lu, pp. 409-420

Week 10

- Oct. 25 Tu War in China and increasing hostilities with the United States
READING: McClain, pp. 441-481
Lu, pp. 420-442
- 27 Th The war in the Pacific
READING: McClain, pp. 482-515
Lu, pp. 443-458

Week 11

- Nov. 01 Tu The end of the war
- 03 Th **Research paper due**

Week 12

- Nov. 08 Tu The U.S. Occupation
READING: McClain, pp. 523-561
Lu, pp. 459-504
- 10 Th Post-occupation politics
READING: Lu, pp. 505-524

Week 13

- Nov. 15 Tu The legacy of war
READING: Hane, pp. 295-320
Walthall, pp. 193-229
- 17 Th Japan's economic recovery
READING: McClain, pp. 562-598
Lu, pp. 525-562

Nov. 22 Tu Thanksgiving Recess - NO CLASS
24 Th Thanksgiving Recess - NO CLASS

Week 14

Nov. 29 Tu Japan in the modern age
READING: McClain, pp. 599-632
Lu, pp. 563-618

Dec. 01 Th Modern challenges
READING: Nothomb, **entire**

Week 15

Dec. 06 Tu Conclusion

Dec. 09 F 1:00 - 3:30 PM FINAL EXAM (bring bluebooks)