

Modern Japan: HSEA GU4847 (Fall 2017)

Tuesday 2.10pm-4pm in Kent 411

Paul Kreitman (pk2528@columbia.edu)
Office hours: Tuesday 10am-12pm, IAB #933

Course Goals

In this course we will explore the history of Japan between 1800 and the present, with a particular focus on the 20th century. In lectures and discussion we will draw upon a combination of primary source materials (political documents, memoirs, oral histories, journalism, fiction, film) and scholarly writings in order to gain insight into the complex and tumultuous process by which Japan became an industrialized society, a modern nation-state, and a world power. By the end of the course you will be familiar with the key trends and turning points of modern Japanese history - including the roots of modernity, the encounter with the West, the political transitions of the nineteenth century, industrialization, the advent of mass society, imperialism, militarism, war and occupation, trans-war continuities, the 'economic miracle', the post-Bubble era and the politics of memory. You will also have developed an understanding of the dominant themes of recent English-language historiography, and a grasp of the issues that continue to dominate contemporary Japanese politics and society.

Requirements and Evaluation

1. **Regular class attendance and active participation in discussion**, informed by solid preparation. One unavoidable absence may be excused, but in such cases please contact me beforehand and arrange to submit notes or otherwise respond to the content of the missed class. (20%)
2. **Courseworks postings** each week (**due by 6pm the Monday before class**) and **brief presentations** on selected readings. The Courseworks postings should be short and punchy (100-200 words) and discuss specific aspects of at least one of the primary or secondary source(s). (20%)
3. **Two papers** to be submitted as a hard copy in 407 Kent Hall AND as an emailed attachment. (Electronic submission alone is not acceptable.) If an extension has not been requested and granted in advance, overdue papers will lose one-half letter grade for each day they are late. (60%)
 - i. A short response to one of the primary source readings, relating it to themes discussed in class through specific quotation and analysis how. **3-5 pp. (1500 words max), due Sunday 15th October by 11.59 PM.** (15%)
 - ii. Write an essay focussing on a specific moment of rupture in Japanese history, discussing what changed and what remained the same. If possible explore the moment within a comparative or transnational context, or using a particular theoretical framework (eg gender, postcolonialism, environmental history).

Include legible citations and a bibliography. **10-12 pp. (3600 words max), due Friday 22nd December by 11.59 PM.** (45%)

Academic Integrity Statement

Students are expected to do their own work on all tests and assignments for this class and act in accordance with the Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity and Honor Code established by the students of Columbia College and the School of General Studies. Because any academic integrity violation undermines our intellectual community, students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or committed any other act of academic dishonesty can expect [specify academic sanction] and may be referred to the Dean's Discipline process.

It is students' responsibility to ensure their work maintains the standards expected and should you have any questions or concerns regarding your work, you can:

- Talk with your TA
- Ask the instructor
- Refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity.

Disability Accommodation Statement

If you have been certified by Disability Services (DS) to receive accommodations, please either bring your accommodation letter from DS to your professor's office hours to confirm your accommodation needs, or ask your liaison in GSAS to consult with your professor. If you believe that you may have a disability that requires accommodation, please contact Disability Services at 212-854-2388 or disability@columbia.edu.

Important: To request and receive an accommodation you must be certified by DS.

Readings

Each class session involves common reading from primary and secondary sources. (**Primary sources are highlighted in bold.**) All of these readings will be made available on the Courseworks site; you are expected to bring copies to class (especially of the primary sources) to refer to during discussion. The course textbook is **Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2013).**

For further background reading, please consult the following general surveys, **on reserve at the C.V. Starr East Asian Library:**

- Marius B. Jansen, *Japan in Transition: From Tokugawa to Meiji* (Princeton University Press, 1988) [also uploaded on Courseworks]
- Conrad Totman, *A History of Japan* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2005)
- David Howell, *Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-Century Japan* (University of California Press, 2005)

- Daniel V. Botsman, *Punishment and Power in the Making of Modern Japan* (Princeton University Press, 2007)
- Brett L. Walker, *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800* (University of California Press, 2006)
- Carol Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths* (Princeton University Press, 1987)
- Takashi Fujitani, *Splendid Monarchy: Power and Pageantry in Modern Japan* (University of California Press, 1996)
- Edward Seidensticker, *Low City, High City: Tokyo From Edo to the Earthquake* (A. Knopf, 1983)
- Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan (Twentieth Century Japan: The Emergence of a World Power)* (University of California Press, 1992)
- Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle: The Growth of Industrial Policy: 1925-1975* (Stanford University Press, 1982)
- Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds* (Princeton University Press, 1998)
- Takashi Fujitani, *Race for Empire: Koreans as Japanese and Japanese as Americans During World War II* (Univ of California Press, 2011)
- Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism (Twentieth Century Japan: The Emergence of a World Power)* (University of California Press, 1999-09-01)
- Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook, *Japan At War: An Oral History* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2000)
- Yoshikuni Igarashi, *Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1945-1970* (Princeton University Press, 2012)
- Andrew Gordon, *Postwar Japan as History* (Univ of California Press, 1993)
- Christopher Gerteis and Timothy George, *Japan Since 1945: From Postwar to Post-Bubble* (London: Bloomsbury, 2012)

Weekly Readings

Week 1 (5th Sept) - Introduction & Organizational Meeting

Week 2 (12th Sept) - Tokugawa Japan

- Read Gordon Intro, Ch.1-2
- ***Jippensha Ikku*, “Travels on the Eastern Seaboard” in Haruo Shirane (ed.) *Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology (Columbia, 2002)***
- **Santō Kyōden, “Playboy, Grilled Eel Style” in Sumie Jones & Kenji Watanabe (eds), *An Edo Anthology: Tales from Japan's Megacity (Hawaii, 2013)***
- Mary Elizabeth Berry, “Public Peace and Private Attachment: The Goals and Conduct of Power in Early Modern Japan,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 12, no. 2 (1986)
- James W White, “State Growth and Popular Protest in Tokugawa Japan,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 14, no. 1 (1988)
- David L Howell, “Territoriality and Collective Identity in Tokugawa Japan,” *Daedalus* 127, no. 3 (1998)

Week 3 (19th Sept) - The Meiji Transition I: The Fall of the Shogunate

- Read Gordon Ch.3-4
- **Steele & Walthall, *Politics and Society in Japan's Meiji Restoration: a brief history with documents* (Bedford, St Martins, 2017):**
 - a. **Doc 1 (Aizawa Seishisai)**
 - b. **Doc 3 (Shogunate ordinances)**
 - c. **Doc 5 (Debate on Opening the Country)**
 - d. **Doc 10 (Yoshida Shōin)**
 - e. **Doc 15 (Reform of Relations between Shogun & Daimyō)**
 - f. **Doc 16 (woodblock print)**
 - g. **Doc 24 (Fukuzawa Yukichi)**
 - h. **Doc 25 (Sakamoto Ryōma)**
 - i. **Doc 26 (Ee ja nai ka)**
- Daniel Orbach, *Curse on this Country: Japan's Rebellious Army* (Cornell, 2016) Ch.1-2

Week 4 (26th Sept) - The Meiji Transition II: State-building, Participation, Protest

- Read Gordon Ch.5-6
- **Nakae Chomin, *A Discourse of Three Drunkards on Government* (Weatherhill, 1992) extract**
- **Steele & Walthall, *Politics and Society in Japan's Meiji Restoration:***
 - a. **Doc. 34 (Kido Takayoshi)**
 - b. **Doc 35 (Itō Hirobumi)**
- Orbach, *Curse on this Country*: Ch.4-5
- Daniel V. Botsman, "Freedom without Slavery? 'Coolies,' Prostitutes, and Outcasts in Meiji Japan's 'Emancipation Moment'", *The American Historical Review*, Volume 116, Issue 5, 1 December 2011, Pages 1323–1347, <https://doi.org/10.1086/ahr.116.5.1323>
- Pieter de Ganan, "Down the Rabbit Hole: a study in the political economy of modern Japan", *Past and Present* no.213 (November 2011)

Week 5 (3rd Oct) - Imperialism & Emigration

- Read Gordon Ch.7-8
- **Yamagusuku Seichū, *The Kunenbo Orange Trees* (1911)**
- **Kim Sa-Ryang, "Into the Light" (1939)**
- **[PBS Hawaii, *Canefields Songs: Holehole Bushi* \(2013\) available on Youtube](#)**
- Erik W Esselstrom, "Rethinking the Colonial Conquest of Manchuria: The Japanese Consular Police in Jiandao, 1909-1937," *Modern Asian Studies* 39, no.1 (2005)
- Jun Uchida, "A Sentimental Journey: Mapping the Interior Frontier of Japanese Settlers in Colonial Korea." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 70, no.3 (2011): 706–29.
- Sand, Jordan. 'Subaltern Imperialists: The new historiography of the Japanese empire', *Past and Present* 225 (Nov 2014), 273-278.

•

Week 6 (10th Oct) - The City & The Country

- Read Gordon Ch.9-10
- **Takashi Nagatsuka [trans. Ann Waswo], *The Soil: A Portrait of Rural Life in Meiji Japan* (University of California Press, 1994) extract**
- **Edogawa Rampo [trans. Seth Jacobowitz], “Dr. Mera’s Mysterious Crimes” (1932)**
- Edward Seidensticker, *Low City, High City: Tokyo from Edo to the Earthquake* (Alfred Knopf, 1983), Ch.1, Ch.6
- Jordan Sand, *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, 1880-1930* (Harvard University Press, 2003), Ch.4
- Sheldon Garon, “The World’s Oldest Debate? Prostitution and the State in Imperial Japan, 1900-1945,” *The American Historical Review* 98, no. 3 (1993)

Week 7 (17th Oct) - Fascism?

- Read Gordon Ch.11
- **Hino Ashihei, *Wheat and Soldiers* (1938): May 4th-5th, 11th,12th, 19th-22nd**
- Peter Duus and Daniel Okimoto, “Comment: Fascism and the History of Pre-War Japan: The Failure of a Concept,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 39, no. 01 (1979)
- Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Grassroots Fascism: The War Experience of the Japanese People* (Columbia University Press, 2015) Intro

Week 8 (24th Oct) - World War II

- Read Gordon Ch.12
- **Cook and Cook, *Japan At War: An Oral History*: extracts**
- **The Women’s Division of the Green Flag Association, *The Manual of Home Cuisine* (1941)**
- Peter Duus, “Japan’s Wartime Empire: Problems and Issues,” in Duus et al., eds., *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931-1945*, pp. xi-xxxix
- Sayaka Chatani, “Between ‘Rural Youth’ and Empire: Social and Emotional Dynamics of Youth Mobilization in the Countryside of Colonial Taiwan under Japan’s Total War” in the *American Historical Review* (April 2017)

Week 9 (31st Oct) - The Occupation

- Read Gordon Ch.13
- **Shōwa Emperor, “Gyokuon Hōsō” [Bejewelled Voice Broadcast] 15 August 1945 - transcript**
- **"Text of Japan's Two Constitutions," in Hugh Borton, *Japan's Modern Century, 569-588* (read SCAP Constitution and compare with 1889)**

- John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2000) extracts
- Laura Hein, "Revisiting America's Occupation of Japan," *Cold War History* 11, no. 4 (2011)

(7th Nov) ACADEMIC HOLIDAY - NO CLASS

Week 10 (14th Nov) - Cultures of Conflict

- Read Gordon Ch.14
- **Ōe Kenzaburō, *Seventeen* (1961) including intro by Miyoshi Masao**
- Igarashi, *Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1945-1970*, Ch.5

Week 11 (21st Nov) - The High Growth Years

- Read Ch.15-16
- **Ishihara Shintarō and Morita Akio, "The Japan That Can Say No" (1989) Ch.3, Chs. 6-8**
- **Ezra Vogel, *Japan as No.1: Lessons for America* (Harvard, 1981) extracts**
- Gary Allinson, "The Structure and Transformation of Conservative Rule" in Gordon, *Postwar Japan as History*.
- Laura Hein, "Growth Versus Success: Japan's Economic Policy in Historical Perspective"
- Dower, John W. "The Useful War." *Daedalus* (1990): 49–70.

Week 12 (28th Nov) - Memory Wars

- Read Gordon Ch.17
- **excerpts from Kobayashi Yoshinori, "Neo-Gomanism Special - On War" in *SAPIO*, 1995-2003)**
- **Richard Gardner, "Nationalistic Shintō: A Child's Guide to Yasukuni Shrine" in George Tanabe (ed.), *Religions of Japan in Practice* (Princeton, 1999)**
- Yoshiko Nozaki, "The Comfort Women Controversy: History and Testimony," *Japan Focus* 336 (2005)
- *Yoshimi Yoshiaki with an introduction by Satoko Oka Norimatsu, "[Reexamining the 'Comfort Women' Issue - An Interview with Yoshimi Yoshiaki](#)", The Asia-Pacific Journal, Vol. 13, Issue 1, No. 1, January 5, 2015.*
- Carol Gluck, "The Past in the Present" in Gordon (ed.), *Postwar Japan as History*.
- Alexis Dudden, "Japan's Problem Islands," *Dissent* (October 2014)

Week 13 (5th Dec) - Post-Bubble to Fukushima

- Read Gordon Ch.18
- **Medoruma Shun, [trans. Steve Rabson] “Hope” (1999)**
- **Murakami Haruki [trans. Jay Rubin], “A UFO in Kushiro” (1995)**
- **Murakami Haruki, “Speaking as an Unrealistic Dreamer” in *Japan Focus* (July 19, 2011)**
- Amy Catalinac, “From Pork to Policy: The Rise of Programmatic Campaigning in Japanese Elections”, *The Journal of Politics* (2016, 78: 1)
- Tessa Morris-Suzuki, “Touching the Grass: Science, Uncertainty and Everyday Life From Chernobyl to Fukushima,” *Science, Technology and Society* 19, no. 3 (2014)
- Sara B. Pritchard “Japan Forum: An Envirotechnical Disaster: Nature, Technology, and Politics at Fukushima.” *Environmental History* 17 (2012): 219–43.
- Greg Obermiller, “Dreaming Ryukyu” in Gerteis, Christopher and Timothy George. *Japan since 1945: From Postwar to Post-Bubble*. London: Bloomsbury, 2012.