

# Modern Japan: HSEA GU4847 (Spring 2019)

Wednesday 2.10pm-4pm in Kent 624

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Office hours: Monday 9am-10am, IAB #933

## Course Goals

In this course we will discuss the history of Japan between 1800 and the present, with a particular focus on the 20th century. 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 industrialised 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, industrialisation, the advent of mass society, imperialism, militarism, war and occupation, trans-war continuities, the 'economic miracle', the post-Bubble era, gender relations, environmental history, 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 some 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%) **Each student will lead the class for one week**, preparing 3-4 discussion questions based on detailed readings of the assigned texts. Students should meet with me in the week before class to discuss their questions in advance.
2. **Courseworks postings** each week (**due by 6pm the Tuesday before class**). 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 IAB 933 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. **1500 words max**, **due Saturday 9th March 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. **3600 words max, due Friday, 10th May 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:

- 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](mailto: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 (21st Jan 9am) - Introduction & Organisational Meeting

Week 2 (30th Jan) - Tokugawa Politics and Society

- **Jippensha Ikku, "Thousand-armed Goddess, Julienned" in Sumie Jones & Kenji Watanabe (eds), *An Edo Anthology: Tales from Japan's Megacity* (Hawaii, 2013)**
- **Mark Teeuwen and Kate Wildman Sakai, *Lust, Commerce and Corruption: An Account of What I Have Seen and Heard, by an Edo Samurai* (Columbia University Press. 2014) Ch.7**
- 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)
- Luke Roberts, *Performing the Great Peace: Political Space and Open Secrets in Tokugawa Japan* (U Hawaii, 2012) Ch.1, Ch.4
- Maren Ehlers, "Benevolence, Charity, and Duty: Famine Relief and Domain Society During the Tenmei Famine." *Monumenta Nipponica* 69:1 (2014): 55-101.

### Week 3 (6th Feb) - Japan in the 19th Century World

Presenter: Jasper

- **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)**
- Robert Hellyer, "The Missing Pirate and the Pervasive Smuggler: Regional Agency in Coastal Defence, Trade, and Foreign Relations in Nineteenth-Century Japan", *International History Review* 27:1 (Mar 2005)
- David L. Howell. "Foreign Encounters and Informal Diplomacy in Early Modern Japan." *The Journal of Japanese Studies* 40:2 (2014)
- Daniel V. Botsman, "Freedom without Slavery? 'Coolies,' Prostitutes, and Outcasts in Meiji Japan's 'Emancipation Moment'," *The American Historical Review* 116:5 (1 December 2011)

### Week 4 (13th Feb) - State, Participation, Protest

Presenter: Hsin Pei

- **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)**
- Kyu Hyun Kim, *The Age of Visions and Arguments: Parliamentarianism and the National Public Sphere in Early Meiji Japan* (Harvard University, 2008) Ch.5, 10
- Carol Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths* Ch.1, 2
- Oleg Benesch, "Reconsidering Zen, Samurai and the Martial Arts," *Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* 14:17:7 (1 Sept 2016)

### Week 5 (20th Feb) - Gender, Sex, Modernity

Presenter: Wenmao

- **Yamakawa Kikue, *Women of the Mito Domain "The Days of a Housewife"***
- Amy Stanley, "Enlightenment Geisha: The Sex Trade, Education, and Feminine Ideals in Early Meiji Japan", *Journal of Asian Studies* 72:3 (August 2013)
- Sheldon Garon, "The World's Oldest Debate? Prostitution and the State in Imperial Japan, 1900-1945," *The American Historical Review* 98, no. 3 (1993)

- Gregory Pflugfelder, “S is for Schoolgirl” in Molony & Uno, *Gendering Modern Japanese History* (Harvard, 2005)
- ~~Michele M. Mason, “Empowering the Would-be Warrior: Bushido and the Gendered Bodies of the Japanese Nation” in *Recreating Japanese Men* (UC Press, 2011)~~
- Sabine Fruhstuck, “Managing the Truth of Sex in Imperial Japan,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 59:2 (May 2002)

#### Week 6 (27th Feb) - Imperial Mobility

Presenter: Claire

- **Yamagusuku Seichū, *The Kunenbo Orange Trees* (1911)**
- **Kim Sa-Ryang, “Into the Light” (1939)**
- Erik W Esselstrom, “Rethinking the Colonial Conquest of Manchuria: The Japanese Consular Police in Jiandao, 1909-1937,” *Modern Asian Studies* 39:1 (2005)
- Jun Uchida, “A Sentimental Journey: Mapping the Interior Frontier of Japanese Settlers in Colonial Korea.” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 70:3 (2011): 706–29.
- Eiichiro Azuma, "Japanese Immigrant Settler Colonialism in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands and the U.S. Racial-Imperialist Politics of the Hemispheric ‘Yellow Peril’." *Pacific Historical Review* 83:2 (2014)
- ~~Jordan Sand, 'Subaltern Imperialists: The new historiography of the Japanese empire', *Past and Present* 225 (Nov 2014), 273-278.~~

#### Week 7 (6th Mar) - Fascism?

Presenter: Mark

- **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* 39:1 (1979)
- Yoshimi Yoshiaki, *Grassroots Fascism: The War Experience of the Japanese People* (Columbia University Press, 2015) extract
- Louise Young, “When fascism met empire in Japanese-occupied Manchuria,” *Journal of Global History* 12 (2017)
- Reto Hofmann, “The fascist new-old order”, *Journal of Global History* 12 (2017)

#### Week 8 (13th Mar) - World War II

Presenter: Tony

- **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)**
- 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)
- Sheldon Garon, “Luxury is the Enemy: Mobilizing Savings and Popularizing Thrift in Wartime Japan,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 26:1 (Winter, 2000)

- ~~Jeremy Yellen, “Wartime Wilsonianism and the Crisis of Empire, 1941–1943” *Modern Asian Studies* (2018)~~
- Paul Kreitman, “Attacked by Excrement: The Political Ecology of Shit in Wartime and Postwar Tokyo” *Environmental History* (April 2018)

(20th Mar) - SPRING BREAK

Week 9 (27th Mar) - READING WEEK

Week 10 (3rd April) - Occupation

Presenter: Ian & Ken

- **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) **WHOLE BOOK**
- Laura Hein, “Revisiting America’s Occupation of Japan,” *Cold War History* 11, no. 4 (2011)
- Jolyon Thomas, “Religions Policies during the Allied Occupation of Japan, 1945–1952,” *Religion Compass* 8:9 (2014): 275–286.

Week 11 (10th April) - Cultures of Conflict

Presenter: Simon & Jasmine

- **Ōe Kenzaburō, *Seventeen* (1961), [trans. Luk Van Haute] intro by Miyoshi Masao & extracts**
- **Ōe Kenzaburō, *Death of a Political Youth* (1962) [trans. ??] extracts**
- Nick Kapur, *Japan at the Crossroads* (Harvard, 2018) Intro, Ch.6, Conclusion
- Yoshikuni Igarashi, *Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1945-1970*, Ch.5
- Odd Arne Westad, “Preface: Was there a ‘global 1968’?” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Global ‘60s*
- Naoko Koda, “The US Cold War and the Japanese Student Movement, 1947-1973” in *The Routledge Handbook of the Global ‘60s*
- ~~Koji Taira, “Dialectics of Economic Growth, National Power, and Distributive Struggles” in Gordon (ed.), *Postwar Japan as History*~~

Week 12 (17th April) - Memory Wars

Presenter: Alice Chen

- **excerpts from Kobayashi Yoshinori, “Neo-Gomanism Special - On War” in *SAPIO*, (1995-2003)**

- Yoshiko Nozaki, “The Comfort Women Controversy: History and Testimony,” *Japan Focus* 336 (2005)
- Yoshimi Yoshiaki w. intro by Satoko Oka Norimatsu, ["Reexamining the 'Comfort Women' Issue - An Interview with Yoshimi Yoshiaki"](#), *The Asia-Pacific Journal* 13:1:1 (5 Jan 2015)
- Sebastian Conrad, “The Dialectics of Rememberance: Memories of Empire in Cold War Japan”, in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 56:1 (2014)
- 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 (24th April) - From High Growth to post-Bubble

Presenter: Alice Hu & Elif Memet

- ~~Ezra Vogel, *Japan as No.1: Lessons for America* (Harvard, 1981) extracts~~
- Dower, John W. “The Useful War.” *Daedalus* (1990): 49–70.
- Gary Allinson, “The Structure and Transformation of Conservative Rule” in Gordon, *Postwar Japan as History*.
- Simon Partner, *Assembled in Japan: Electrical Goods and the Making of the Japanese Consumer*, (University of California Press, 2000) Ch.6
- Lonny Carlile, “Postindustrialization of the Developmental State”
- Andrew Gordon, “New and Enduring Dual Structures of Employment in Japan: The Rise of Non-Regular Labor, 1980s–2010s”, *Social Science Japan Journal* 20:1 (1 Feb 2017)

#### Week 14 (1st May) - Environment

Presenter: Sebastian

- ***Ichi-F: a worker's graphic memoir of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant: Ch.0 “Stay Safe”***
- Ken’ichi Miyamoto, “Japanese Environmental Policy: Lessons from Experience and Remaining Problems,” in Miller, Adeney Thomas & Walker (eds) *Japan at Nature’s Edge: The Environmental Context of a Global Power* (U Hawaii, 2013)
- ~~Jakobina Arch, “Whale Meat in Early Postwar Japan: Natural Resources and Food Culture,” *Environmental History* 21 (July 2016)~~
- ~~Satsuki Takahashi, “Endless Modernization: Fisheries Policy and Development in Postwar Japan” in Chris Gerteis & Timothy George (eds.) *Japan Since 1945*~~
- Martin Dusinberre & Daniel P Aldrich. “Hatoko Comes Home: Civil Society and Nuclear Power in Japan,” *The Journal of Asian Studies* 70:3 (2011): 683–705.
- Tessa Morris-Suzuki, “Touching the Grass: Science, Uncertainty and Everyday Life From Chernobyl to Fukushima,” *Science, Technology and Society* 19:3 (2014)