

## History 356: Modern Japan

Spring Semester 2017  
TR 10:30-11:45  
Classroom: Planetary Hall 224

Dr. Brian Platt (bplatt1@gmu.edu)  
Office: Robinson B351  
Office Hours: T 1:00-2:00  
(and by appointment)

This course is a survey of Japanese history from the Tokugawa period (around 1600) to the end of the Pacific War in 1945. The course focuses both on changes that preceded Western imperialism in East Asia and those that followed in its wake. Our discussion of modern Japanese history will revolve around three interconnected themes: imperialism, nationalism, and modernity.

### **I. Required Readings**

De Bary, Gluck, and Tiedemann, eds., *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 2 (on Blackboard)  
Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*  
Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story*  
Anne Walthall, ed., *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan*  
Additional readings posted on Blackboard

### **II. Grading**

Class Attendance and Participation: 15%  
Midterm Exam #1: 25%  
Midterm Exam #2: 25%  
Final Exam: 35%

The class participation grade will be based on the students' preparation for and contribution to class discussion. The class will be structured around lectures, but there will be time for discussion in almost every class period. In preparing for class, students should complete all the required readings and be ready to answer questions regarding the readings. A student's class discussion grade will be evaluated not according to the amount of talking that student does, but rather according to whether that student contributes thoughtfully and constructively, based on a careful consideration of the class readings. Obviously, students cannot contribute to class discussion if they are absent; consequently, repeated unexcused absences will be reflected in their participation grade.

Students will be required to submit their notes for one class period during the semester. In your notes you should strive to create a road map through the material for that day, including both key details and how they relate to larger themes. 3-4 people will submit notes for each class period, and those notes will be visible to all the students in the class. Your notes will be a component of your participation grade.

There will be two in-class exams during the semester. The final exam will take place during exam week. The exams will include both an identification and an essay component. **Students must take the exams on the day designated by the instructor.**

### **III. Course Goals**

This course satisfies the Mason Core requirement in Global Understanding, and therefore is designed to train students to do the following:

1. Identify and articulate one's own values and how those values influence their interactions and relationships with others, both locally and globally.
2. Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies.
3. Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies.

4. Explore individual and collective responsibilities within a global society through analytical, practical, or creative responses to problems or issues, using resources appropriate to the field.

In addition, this course is designed to train students to do these things:

1. Achieve a close familiarity with the narrative and themes of modern Japanese history
2. Synthesize information provided through lectures and discussion and identify main points
3. Use primary sources in order to understand the past
4. Write argument-driven essays using evidence

#### **IV. Course Policies**

**ADA:** Any student who requires special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me at the beginning of the semester to make necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from the Disabilities Resource Center

**Mason e-mail:** Mason uses only e-mail accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their e-mail account, use it when communicating with faculty, and check it regularly for important university information, including messages related to this class.

**Excuses:** If you miss exams due to a serious illness or a death in the family, you must provide proper documentation, without which your excuse will not be accepted.

**Plagiarism and Cheating:** By enrolling at George Mason University, you have agreed to abide by the university's Honor Code. If you violate that Honor Code by plagiarizing or cheating in any other way, I will automatically report the case to the Dean of Students and the university's Honor Board. I have taken over a dozen cases to the Dean in the past five years, and the punishments have ranged from a zero on the assignment to suspension from the university. Please don't do it.

Concerning plagiarism: According to the Student Handbook, plagiarism encompasses the following: "1) Presenting as one's own the words, work or opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgment; 2) Borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgment." While it is possible that I might not catch every case of plagiarism, you should be aware that I use software packages that scan the Internet for papers purchased online and for phrases and sentences copied from websites. In almost all cases, it is easy to identify plagiarized passages, and it is also easy to identify their source. Please don't risk it.

#### **Three additional policies:**

1. No laptops, unless special circumstances require you to use them.
2. No food.
3. Cell phones must be turned off.

**Add deadline: January 30**

**Final Drop deadline: February 24**

#### **IV. Schedule**

\*Additional documents posted on Blackboard will be marked by an asterisk\*

*Week One*

Tues., Jan. 24: Course Intro

Thurs., Jan. 26: Introduction to Japan and its pre-Tokugawa History

Read: Gordon, pp. 3-9  
Walthall, ch.1 (on Shinanomiya Tsuneko)

### *Week Two*

Tues., Jan. 31: The Tokugawa Order, pt. 1

Read: Gordon, pp. 11-21  
Sources: "Code for Warrior Households" (pp. 12-14)  
"Code for the Imperial Court and Court Nobility" (pp. 14-18)

Thurs., Feb. 2: The Tokugawa Order, pt. 2

Read: Walthall, ch. 2 (on Mori Yoshiki)  
Sources: "The Story of the Miike Sword" (pp. 25-26)  
"Summary of Japanese Matters" (pp. 156-162)  
"Statement on the Expulsion of the Bateria" (pp. 171-174)  
"The Way of the Samurai" (pp. 192-194)

### *Week Three*

Tues., Feb. 7: Socio-economic Change and Cultural Integration

Read: Gordon, pp. 22-34  
Sources: Mitsui Takafusa's "Some Observations About Merchants" (pp. 317-320)  
\*Additional document: Ihara Saikaku, "What the Seasons Brought to the Almanac Maker"

Thurs., Feb. 9: The Changing Role of the Samurai

Read: *Musui's Story*  
Sources: "The Akō Vendetta Dramatized" (pp. 470-473)

### *Week Four*

Tues., Feb. 14: Taking Stock of a Changed Society: Tokugawa Ideology in Action

Read: Gordon, pp. 35-46  
Sources: "Kamo no Mabuchi (pp. 489-496)  
"For a Merit System in Government" (pp. 235-237)  
"The Law of the Universe: Commodities Transactions" (pp. 434-436)  
"Report on an Autopsy" (pp. 371-375)  
"Ōshio's Protest (p. 560)

Thurs., Feb. 16: What should we do about the red-haired Barbarians?

Read: Gordon, pp. 47-51  
Sources: Aizawa Seishisai's "New Theses" (pp. 621-627)  
\*Additional Document: Tokugawa Nariaki's letter to the Bakufu  
\*Additional Document: Ii Naosuke's letter to the Bakufu

### *Week Five*

Tues., Feb. 21: The Fall of the Bakufu

Read: Gordon, pp. 51-59  
Sources: Yoshida Shōin (pp. 651-657)  
Subjugation Edict, Resignation Letter, Edict to Diplomats (pp. 670-671)  
\*Additional Document: "Treaty of Amity and Commerce"

Thurs., Feb. 23: **EXAM 1**

*Week Six*

Tues., Feb. 28: Restoration—or Revolution?

Read: Gordon, pp. 61-75

Sources: From “Charter Oath” to “Kido’s Observations” (pp. 671-680)

“Unity of Rites and Rule” (pp. 793-794)

“Kido Takayoshi and Itō Hirobumi on Universal Education” (pp. 758-760)

Thurs., March 2: Enlightenment Thought in Meiji Japan

Read: Sources: “Civilization and Enlightenment” (pp. 694-717)

*Week Seven*

Tues., March 7: The Domestic Response to Meiji Reforms

Read: Gordon, pp. 76-89

Sources: “Debating a National Assembly” (pp. 722-727)

Walthall, ch. 4 (on the Ishizaka family)

Thurs., March 9: From Colonized to Colonizer (Columbus Day, meet on Tuesday)

Read: \*Additional Document: Fukuzawa Yukichi’s “Leaving Asia”

Walthall, ch. 6 (on Jahana Noboru)

*Week Eight----NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK**Week Nine*

Tues., March 21: Completing the Nation-State in the 1880s

Read: Gordon, pp. 89-92

Sources: “Emergence of Political Parties” (pp. 734-739)

“Bestowing the Constitution on the People” (pp. 39-742)

“The Meiji Constitution” (pp. 745-748)

“The Imperial Rescript on Education” (p. 780)

Thurs., March 23: A Modern Economy, a Modern Empire

Read: Gordon, pp. 93-103, 113-137

Walthall, ch. 3 (on Nishimiya Hide)

*Week Ten*

Tues., March 28: Modernization and Identity

Read: Gordon, pp. 103-112

Sources: “Okakura Kakuzō: Aesthetic Pan-Asianism” (pp. 811-816)

“Japan and the World in Cultural Debate” (pp. 1162-1171)

Thurs., March 30: **EXAM 2**

*Week Eleven*

Tues., April 4: The Taisho era (1912-1926) and Political Change

Read: Gordon, pp. 161-172

Sources: “Yoshino Sakuzō” (pp. 837-848)

Thurs., April 6: A New Society With New Problems

Read: Gordon, pp. 139-160

Sources: "Kaneko Fumiko" (pp. 915-920)

Walthall, ch. 8 (on Matsuura Isami)

#### *Week Twelve*

Tues., April 11: Good Wives, Wise Mothers, New Women, Modern Girls

Read: Walthall, ch. 5 (on Hatoyama Haruko)

Sources: Hiratsuka Raichō and the Bluestocking Society (pp. 1202-1204)

Walthall, ch. 9 (on Yoshiya Nobuko)

Thurs., April 13: Diplomacy and Empire in the Taisho Period

Read: Gordon, pp. 172-180

Sources: "The Impact of World War I" (pp. 983-986)

"Peaceful Cooperation Abroad" (pp. 886-889)

"Yanagi Muneyoshi and the Kwanghwa Gate" (pp. 816-820)

#### *Week Thirteen*

Tues., April 18: Radical Nationalism in the 1920s

Read: Sources: "The Rise of Revolutionary Nationalism" (pp. 948-967)

Thurs., April 20: Economic Depression, Military Expansion

Read: Gordon, pp. 181-191

Sources: "Plan to Occupy Manchuria" and "The Economic Need for Expansion" (pp. 986-991)

#### *Week Fourteen*

Tues., April 25: Repression and Mobilization at Home

Read: Gordon, pp. 191-201

Sources: "The Tenkō Phenomenon" (pp. 940-947)

"National Mobilization" (pp. 992-995)

Thurs., April 27: Japan's Path to the Pacific War

Read: Gordon, pp. 202-209

Sources: "The Decision for War With the U.S." (pp. 1007-1010)

#### *Week Fifteen*

Tues. May 2: Mobilizing Hearts and Minds

Read: Gordon, pp. 209-219

Sources: pp. 995-1015 ("Konoe Fumimaro," "The Imperial Rule Assistance Association,"

"Spiritual Mobilization" and "Economic Mobilization, "The War's Goals" and "The Greater East Asia Conference")

Thurs., May 4: War's End

Read: Gordon, pp. 219-223

Sources: "Defeat" (pp. 1015-1017)

Walthall ch. 11 (on Yokoi Shoichi)

The final exam will be held on **Tuesday, May 16, 10:30-1:15.**