

SYLLABUS: MODERN JAPAN

HIST 356-001
Fall 2018
TR 1:30 – 2:45 pm
Music/Theater Bldg 1007

Instructor: Sharon Chamberlain
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Office Hours: TR Noon – 1 pm
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COURSE DESCRIPTION: The late 19th and 20th centuries were a period of tremendous change for Japan. It transformed from a relatively isolated country threatened by the West to an imperial power in its own right, only to crash in war and then rise again as an economic powerhouse. This course provides an introduction to political, economic, and social developments in modern Japan, focusing principally on the period 1868-1989.

COURSE GOALS

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

- Demonstrate understanding of how the patterns and processes of globalization make visible the interconnections and differences among and within contemporary global societies.
- Demonstrate the development of intercultural competencies.
- 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.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After completion of this course, students will be able to

- Identify the main elements and causes of Japan's modern transformation
- Assess and compare the distinctive features and continuities of pre- and postwar Japan
- Critically analyze historical texts and popular representations of Japan as contrasted with scholarly accounts

REQUIRED BOOKS

Andrew Gordon, *Modern History of Japan* (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Nakae Chomin, *Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government* (Weatherhill, 1984)

OTHER REQUIRED READINGS [sources in parentheses]

Cook, Haruko and Theodore Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History*. New York: the NewPress, 1992. [Excerpts, Part 3 “Homeland”] [Blackboard]

Cumings, Bruce. “Japan’s Position in the World System,” in *Postwar Japan as History*, edited by Andrew Gordon. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993. [Blackboard]

de Bary, Wm. Theodore, et al., eds. *Sources of Japanese Tradition*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006. [excerpts, Blackboard]

Dower, John. *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1999. [Chapter 15] [Blackboard]

Dower, John. “Peace and Democracy in Two Systems: External Policy and Internal Conflict.” In *Postwar War Japan as History*. [Blackboard]

Duus, Peter. “Japan’s Wartime Empire: Problems and Issues,” in *The Japanese Wartime Empire, 1931-1945*, edited by Peter Duus et al. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996. [Blackboard]

Iriye, Akira. *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War: A Brief History with Documents and Essays*. Boston: Harvard University Press, 1999. [Excerpts] [Blackboard]

Jansen, Marius. “Japanese Imperialism: Late Meiji Perspectives.” In *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945*, edited by Ramon Myers and Mark Peattie. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1984. [Blackboard]

Kublin, Hyman. “The Evolution of Japanese Colonialism.” *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 2:1 (October 1959): 67-84. [JSTOR]

Meiji Constitution, 1889. [history.hanover.edu/texts/1889con.html]

Mutsu Munemitsu. *Kenkenroku: A Diplomatic Record of the Sino-Japanese War, 1894-95*. Trans. Gordon Mark Berger. Tokyo: The Japan Foundation, 1982. [Excerpts] [Blackboard]

Postwar Japanese Constitution:

http://japan.kantei.go.jp/constitution_and_government_of_japan/constitution_e.html

Pyle, Kenneth. “Japan Besieged: the Textbook Controversy,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* 9:2 (Summer 1983) [JSTOR]

ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMINATIONS

- **Essay:** A short paper (4-5 pages) to address the following question:

How do the points of view expressed by the characters in Nakae Chōmin’s *Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government* reflect the major issues and difficulties confronting the

early Meiji leadership (as discussed in chapters 5 & 6 of Gordon's *A Modern History of Japan*)?

In your essay you may focus more narrowly on a single character or set of issues or alternatively more broadly on multiple characters/issues. You should rely **exclusively** on Nakae and Gordon, and cite specific text references using parentheses (e.g., (Gordon, 27)).

Your paper should be double spaced with 1" margins and use a 12 pitch font in a standard type face (e.g., Times New Roman). Please number your pages.

- **Mid-term and Final Examinations:** The mid-term exam will be 1 hour and the final exam 2 hours. Both will consist of term identifications, document identifications and/or short essay questions. Students are required to take the examinations on the scheduled dates; only in the most extraordinary cases will students be permitted to reschedule an examination. No electronic devices, including cell phones, and no study materials of any kind may be used during the examinations.
- **Class notes:** Students will be required to submit their notes for one class period during the semester. In your notes you should take care to include the major points covered during the class, as well as key details and how they relate to the main points. These notes, which must be posted to Blackboard within 24 hours of class, will be available to all students. I have posted each student's assigned note day on Blackboard.

EXPECTATIONS AND GRADING

Attendance at classes is required. If you will miss a class due to a medical or family emergency, please notify me in advance via email. You may be required to provide a doctor's note and/or a summary of the readings assigned for the missed class. Multiple unexcused absences will lower your grade.

All assigned readings must be completed before class.

Discussions are an integral part of this class, and your participation is strongly encouraged. Your class notes will form part of your discussion grade.

Your essay will be graded in accordance with (1) compliance with the topic requirements; (2) the soundness of your argument(s); (3) logical presentation, including organization and clarity; and (4) accuracy, including acceptable grammar and accurate proofing. Your essay is due on the date of class indicated in the syllabus and any paper received after the end of that class will be considered late. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 grade for each class day late thereafter (that is, an A paper that is submitted the next class day will receive an A minus and a B paper submitted 2 class days late will receive a C+ and so on). **You MUST provide a hard copy of your paper when it is due; you must also email a copy to the instructor. Submitting a late paper via email will stop the clock from further penalties but you must still provide a hard copy at the next class session.**

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Essay	25%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%
Class participation/attendance	15%

COURSE POLICIES

ADA: Any student who requires special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact me at the beginning of the semester. Specific accommodations must be arranged through Disability Services (ods.gmu.edu).

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; punishments can range from a zero on an assignment or exam to suspension from the university.

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." Software packages make it easy to identify plagiarized materials from other sources and phrases/sentences copied from websites. Please don't risk being caught plagiarizing someone else's work.

Cell phone/laptop use

All students should turn off their cell phones during class. You may use electronic devices (laptops, Ipads, etc) for taking notes only and should refrain from emailing, texting, or surfing the web during class.

Class Schedule

#	Date	Topic	Assignments
1	8/28	Course Overview, Expectations, and 'Mapping' Japan	
2	8/30	Beginnings: Themes and Influences of Pre-Modern Japan	Gordon, Introduction
3	9/4	Prelude to Modern Japan: Tokugawa Era	Gordon, Chs 1, 2, 3
4	9/6	Early Dangers & Challenges: Arrival of the West and Fall of the Bakufu	Gordon, Ch. 4
5	9/11	Meiji Ishin: Restoration or Revolution?	Gordon, Chs. 5 & 7
6	9/13	Meiji Transformation: Fundamental Challenges	Gordon, Ch. 6 Meiji Constitution
7	9/18	Early Meiji Foreign Policy	Gordon, Ch. 8, pp. 113-122
8	9/20	Japan's Shifting Sense of Asia	Mutsu, <i>Kenkenroku</i>
9	9/25	Imperialism Rising	Jansen, "Japanese Imperialism"
10	9/27	World War I and Aftermath: Japan in the Washington System	Gordon, Ch. 9 Gordon, Ch. 10, pp. 172-180 NAKAE PAPER DUE
11	10/2	Taishō Democracy: Politics, Government, and Society	Gordon, Ch. 8, pp. 125-137 Gordon, Ch. 10, pp. 161-172
12	10/4	Japan's Colonial Empire in the Making	Kublin, "Evolution of Japanese Colonialism"
	10/9	Fall Break (No Class)	
13	10/11	Turning Points: Manchurian Incident, Collapse of Washington System	de Bary, <i>Sources</i> , pp.294-301
14	10/16	Japan in the 1930s: Fascism?	Gordon, Ch. 11
15	10/18	MID-TERM	
16	10/23	Turn towards War	Iriye, <i>Pearl Harbor</i>
17	10/25	Waging War in Asia	Gordon, Ch. 12 Duus, "Japan's Wartime Empire"
18	10/30	Waging War: Impact on the Home Front	Cook & Cook, <i>Japan at War</i>
19	11/1	WWII Aftermath: Occupation & Reforms	Gordon, Ch. 13 Postwar Constitution
20	11/6	WWII Aftermath II: Consequences	Dower, <i>Embracing Defeat</i>
21	11/8	San Francisco System & '1955 System'	Dower, "Peace & Democracy in Two Systems"
22	11/13	Cold War in Asia	Cumings, "Japan's Position in the World System"
23	11/15	The Economic Miracle	Gordon, Chs. 14 & 15
24	11/20	Japan in the 1970s/1980s: Security, Foreign Policy, and Trade Issues	Gordon, Ch. 16
	11/22	Thanksgiving Break (No Class)	
25	11/27	The More Recent Past	Gordon, Chs. 17 & 18
26	11/29	Legacies of History	Pyle, "Japan Besieged"

27	12/4	Overcoming the Legacies of History?	TBD
28	12/6	Evaluation & Wrap up	
	12/12- 12/19	Exam Week	