

# INTRODUCTION TO MODERN JAPANESE HISTORY

CAS HI 369  
Spring 2014  
MWF 10:00-11:00 CAS 325

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Office Hours: M 11-12, W 11-12:30

Japan in the modern era underwent perhaps the most striking transformation of any country in the modern world. Narrowly escaping colonization, Japan transformed into one of the most important imperial and economic powers in the world. Modern Japan is also doubly fascinating for a comparative take on the great themes of modern global history: the social upheavals and transformations of capitalism and democracy, the rise and fate of modern imperialism, the experience of total war, and the spread of a mass consumer culture. This course examines the invention of new traditions and the construction of a new national identity, the rise and fall of empire, the devastation of World War II, and the astonishing postwar economic growth and puzzling stagnation in contemporary times. This course explores how people in Japan have dealt with the dilemmas of modernity that challenge us all.

## REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

*Active and thoughtful* participation is crucial to the success of this course, especially in the section meetings.

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Historiography:	20%
Midterm Exam:	10%
Term Paper:	30%
Final Exam:	20%

**Writing Assignments:** There are two types of writing assignments: one short historiography and one term paper.

**Historiography:** This is a 5-10 page essay, either chosen in consultation with the course head, or taken from a list of possible topics handed out in advance. **Due March 7.**

**Term Paper:** This paper addresses a topic of your own choosing, in consultation with the course head. The paper should draw on relevant secondary works and consult primary documents, most likely in English (whether translated or originally in English). The paper should be roughly 3500 to 5000 words, excluding bibliography. **Due April 30.**

**Exams:** There will be one mid-term examination (**Feb. 24**) and a final examination, both of which cover all assigned readings and lectures to date.

## REQUIRED READING

Available for purchase at Amazon.com

- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, Second Edition (Oxford, 2009).  
Andrew Gordon, ed. *Postwar Japan as History* (University of California Press, 1993).  
Akira Iriye, ed., *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War: A Brief History with Documents and Essays* (Bedford, 1999).  
Shōtarō Ishinomori, *Japan Inc.* (University of California Press, 1988).  
Junichiro Tanizaki, *Naomi* (Vintage, 2001).

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious offense against intellectual community and will not be tolerated. You are advised to review the college's definitions of and policies regarding plagiarism and cheating, which are available online and in print. See, for example: <http://www.bu.edu/cas/undergraduate/conductcode.html>.

## ATTENDANCE

Attendance at every class meeting is expected. It is your responsibility to contact the professor in advance if you will be unable to attend class, and to get notes, handouts, instructions, etc. from the sessions you have missed.

## SCHEDULE

Weekly readings are to be completed **prior to** Wednesday's class meeting so that discussions can be informed and productive.

## SYLLABUS

### WEEK 1: CRISIS IN THE TOKUGAWA SYSTEM

*JAN. 15: INTRODUCTION; THE TOKUGAWA SYSTEM*

*JAN. 17: CRISIS IN THE TOKUGAWA SYSTEM*

Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, Ch. 1-3, pp. 11-46. [Henceforth *MHJ*]

Thomas Smith, "Merit as Ideology in the Tokugawa Period," *Native Sources of Japanese Industrialization* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988). 156-172.

Primary Sources:

Selections from Aizawa, *New Theses* 1, 4, 6, 7.

### WEEK 2: RESTORATION OR REVOLUTION?

*JAN. 20: NO CLASS—MLK JR. DAY*

*JAN. 22: THE MEIJI RESTORATION*

*JAN. 24: DISMANTLING THE OLD ORDER*

*MHJ*, Ch. 4-5, pp. 47-75.

Thomas Smith, "Japan's Aristocratic Revolution," *Native Sources of Japanese Industrialization*, 133-147.

Primary Sources:

"The Charter Oath," *SJT II*, 671-72.

"The Constitution of 1868," *SJT II*, 672-74.

"Memorial on the Proposal to Return the Registers," *SJT II*, 674-76.

"Imperial Rescript on the Abolition of the *Han*," *SJT II*, 676.

"The Leaders and their Vision" and "The Iwakura Mission," *SJT II*, 676-88.

### **WEEK 3: CIVILIZATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT**

*JAN. 27: FUKUZAWA AN THE JAPANESE ENLIGHTENMENT*

*JAN. 29: PARTICIPATION AND PROTEST*

*JAN. 31: CLASS DISCUSSION*

*MHJ*, Ch. 6, pp. 76-92.

Irokawa Daikichi, *The Culture of the Meiji Period*, Trans. Stephen Vlastos (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1985) [orig. pub. 1970], 51-122.

Ivan Morris, *The Nobility of Failure: Tragic Heroes in the History of Japan*, Ch. 9.

Primary Sources:

Fukuzawa Yukichi, "An Outline of a Theory of Civilization," *SJT II*, 698-707.

Fukuzawa Yukichi, "An Encouragement of Learning," *SJT II*, 707-10.

Nakae Chōmin, "A Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government," *SJT II*, 733-34.

### **WEEK 4: CONSTRUCTING THE MEIJI STATE**

*FEB. 3: BUILDING THE NATION-STATE*

*FEB. 5: WOMEN IN THE NEW JAPAN*

*FEB. 7: CLASS DISCUSSION*

*MHJ*, Ch. 6, pp. 93-112.

Carol Gluck, *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period* (Princeton, 1985), Ch. 4, 73-101.

Sharon Nolte and Sally Hastings, "The Meiji State's Policy Toward Women, 1890-1910," *Recreating Japanese Women*, (Berkeley, 1991), 151 – 174.

Gail Bernstein, "Women in the Silk-Reeling Industry in Nineteenth-Century Japan," *Japan and the World* (MacMillan, 1988), 54-77.

Kozo Yamamura, "The Meiji Land Tax Reform and its Effects," *Japan in Transition*, eds. Jansen and Rozman (Princeton, 1986), 382-397.

Primary Sources:

"The Meiji Constitution, 1889."

Itō Hirobumi, "Memorial on Constitutional Government," *SJT II*, 728-30.

## WEEK 5: RICH NATION, STRONG ARMY

*FEB. 10: NO CLASS—OUT OF TOWN*

*FEB. 12: THE BEGINNINGS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH*

*FEB. 14: CONSTRUCTING EMPIRE*

*MHJ*, Ch. 8, pp. 113-137.

Kozo Yamamura, "Success Illgotten? The Role of Meiji Militarism in Japan's Technical Progress," *The Journal of Economic History* 37:1 (Mar. 1977), 113-135.

Robert Eskildsen, "Of Civilization and Savages: The Mimetic Imperialism of Japan's 1874 Expedition to Taiwan," *American Historical Review* (2002), 388-418.

[Available on JSTOR]

Peter Duus, "Introduction" and "Conclusion," *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910* (Berkeley, 1995), 1-25, 424-438.

Mark R. Peattie, "Japanese Attitudes Toward Colonialism, 1895 – 1945," *The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895 – 1945*, (Princeton, 1984) 80-127

### Primary Sources:

Fukuzawa Yukichi, "Goodbye Asia" (1885).

## WEEK 6: STATE AND SOCIETY IN JAPAN'S IMPERIAL DEMOCRACY

*FEB. 17: BURGEONING DEMOCRACY AT HOME, EMPIRE ABROAD*

*FEB. 19: THE STATE IN EVERYDAY LIFE*

*FEB. 21: CLASS DISCUSSION AND MIDTERM REVIEW*

*MHJ*, Ch. 10, 139-180.

Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds: The State in Everyday Life* (Princeton, 1997), 3-59.

Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan* (Berkeley, 1992), 144-203. (Skim as necessary).

### Primary Sources:

Minobe Tatsukichi, "The Legal Foundation for Liberal Government," *SJT II*, 827-37.

Yoshino Sakuzō, "Democracy as *minpon shugi*." *SJT II*, 837-55.

## WEEK 7: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND AMERICA'S NEW ORDER IN ASIA

*FEB. 24: MIDTERM EXAM*

*FEB. 26: THE FIRST WORLD WAR, WILSON, AND A NEW ORDER IN ASIA?*

*FEB. 28: NO CLASS—OUT OF TOWN*

Kenneth B. Pyle, "The Challenge of International Liberalism" and "Japan's Abortive Order," in *Japan Rising* (PublicAffairs, 2007), 137-169.

Sadao Asada, "Between the Old Diplomacy and the New, 1918-1922: The Washington System and the Origins of Japanese-American Rapprochement." *Diplomatic History*, Vol. 30, Issue 2 (Apr. 2006), 211-230.

Sadao Asada, "From Washington to London: The Imperial Japanese Navy and the Politics of Naval Limitation, 1921-1930," in Erik Goldstein and John Maurer,

ed., *The Washington Conference, 1921-22, Naval Rivalry, East Asian Stability, and the Road to Pearl Harbor* (Cass, 1994), 147-184.

Primary Sources:

Shidehara Kijūrō and Yamamura Shōbun, “Peaceful Cooperation Abroad,” *SJT II*, 886-89.  
Konoe Fumimaro, “Against a Pacifism Centered on England and America.”

**WEEK 8: MODERN TENSIONS**

*MAR. 3: THE BEGINNINGS OF A US-JAPAN ESTRANGEMENT*

*MAR. 5: WOMEN IN CULTURE AND SOCIETY; TENSIONS IN MODERN LIFE*

*MAR. 7: CLASS DISCUSSION—WEEK 7 AND 8 MATERIAL*

**Assignment: Historiography paper due by March 7.**

Miriam Silverberg, “The Modern Girl as Militant.” *Erotic Grotesque Nonsense* (Berkeley, 2006), 51-72.

E. Taylor Atkins, *Blue Nippon: Authenticating Jazz in Japan* (Duke University Press, 2001), 93-126.

Primary Sources:

Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, *Naomi* 『痴人の愛』 (1924). All.

**WEEK 9: NO CLASS MEETINGS: SPRING BREAK!!!**

**WEEK 10: CRISIS OF CAPITALISM AND EMPIRE**

*MAR. 17: THE GREAT DEPRESSION*

*MAR. 19: MOBILIZATION, FASCISM: TOWARD GLOBAL WAR*

*MAR. 21: CLASS DISCUSSION*

*MHJ*, Ch. 11, pp. 181-201.

Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire: Manchuria and the Culture of Wartime Imperialism* (UC Press, 1999), 55-114.

Mark Metzler, *Lever of Empire: The International Gold Standard and the Crisis of Liberalism in Prewar Japan* (UC Press, 2006), 199-240.

Primary Sources:

Kita Ikki, “An Outline Plan for the Reorganization of Japan,” *SJT II*, 959-67.

Ishiwara Kanji, “A Plan to Occupy Manchuria,” *SJT II*, 986-89.

Hashimoto Kingorō, “The Economic Need for Expansion.” *SJT II*, 989-91.

Army Ministry, “On the Basic Meaning of National Defense and its Intensification.” *SJT II*, 992-95.

Konoe Fumimaro, “Concerning the New National Structure.” *SJT II*, 995-97.

“The Imperial Rule Assistance Association.” *SJT II*, 997-98.

Ministry of Education, “The Way of Subjects.” *SJT II*, 998-1002.

Ryū Shintarō, “Economic Mobilization.” *SJT II*, 1002-05.

**WEEK 11: JAPAN AT WAR**

*MAR. 24: JAPAN AT WAR—THE NEW ORDER AT HOME AND ABROAD*  
*MAR. 26: CLASS ACTIVITY: PEARL HARBOR CONFERENCE*  
*MAR. 28: TOKYO, HIROSHIMA, NAGASAKI, AND THE POLITICS OF SURRENDER*

Akira Iriye, ed., *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War: A Brief History with Documents and Essays* (Bedford, 1999), 14-108, 125-146.  
Cook, *Japan At War: An Oral History*, 203-257.

## **WEEK 12: AMERICA’S JAPAN**

*MAR. 31: THE OCCUPIERS*  
*APR. 2: THE OCCUPIED*  
*APR. 4: CLASS DISCUSSION*

*MHJ*, Ch. 13, pp. 224-241.  
John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat* (Norton, 1999), 302-404, 443-521.

### Primary Sources:

“Potsdam Declaration,” *SJT II*, 1022-23.  
“Imperial Rescript on Surrender.” *SJT II*, 1016-17.  
“The New Constitution.” *SJT II*, 1029-36.  
Morito Tatsuo, “The Construction of a Peaceful Nation,” *SJT II*, 1060-64.  
“Ōe Kenzaburō, “Growing up during the Occupation.” *SJT II*, 1074-77.

## **WEEK 13: COLD WAR REALIGNMENTS AND THE CONSERVATIVE POLITICAL RESURGENCE**

*APR. 7: YOSHIDA SHIGERU, ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND THE POSTWAR SYSTEM*  
*APR. 9: UNEQUAL TREATIES AGAIN?*  
*APR. 11: CLASS DISCUSSION*

Kenneth B. Pyle, *The Japanese Question: Power and Purpose in a New Era* (AEI, 1996), 20-64.  
Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, Ch. 5-6, pp. 157-241.  
Kozo Yamamura, Review of Johnson’s *MITI*. *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 1, (1983), 202-17. [Available on JSTOR]  
John W. Dower, “The Useful War,” *Daedalus*, Vol. 119, No. 3 (Summer 1990), 49-70. [Available on JSTOR]

### Primary Sources:

“Two Views of the Security Treaty Crisis of 1960,” *SJT II*, 1094-1100.  
“The Income-Doubling Plan.” *SJT II*, 1102-05.

## **WEEK 14: POSTWAR ECONOMY AND SOCIETY**

*APR. 14: THE MIRACULOUS MIDDLE CLASS*  
*APR. 16: WORKING MEN AND WOMEN: THE CORPORATE-CENTERED SOCIETY*

*APR. 18: CLASS DISCUSSION*

*MHJ*, Ch. 14-15, pp. 243-288.

William Kelly, "Finding a Place in Metropolitan Japan," in Gordon, ed., *Postwar Japan as History* (1993), 189-238.

Kathleen S. Uno, "The Death of 'Good Wife and Wise Mother'?" *Postwar Japan as History*, 293-324.

Laura E. Hein, "Growth Versus Success: Japan's Economic Policy in Historic Perspective," *Postwar Japan as History*, 99-123.

Thomas P. Rohlen, *Japan's High Schools* (1983), Ch. 3-4, 77-141.

Primary Sources:

"The Government's View of the Economy in 1956: 'The "Postwar" is Over.'" *SJT II*, 1090-91.

"Environmental Activism in Postwar Japan: Minamata Disease." *SJT II*, 1105-06.

**WEEK 15: A NEW GLOBAL POWER?**

*APR. 21: CITIZENS MOVEMENTS AND THE STATE*

*APR. 23: THE END OF CATCH-UP*

*APR. 25: CLASS DISCUSSION*

*MHJ*, Ch. 16, pp. 289-307.

Frank K. Upham, "Unplaced Persons and Movements for Place," *Postwar Japan as History*, 325-346.

James W. White "The Dynamics of Political Opposition," *Postwar Japan as History*, 424-448.

Primary Sources:

Shōtarō Ishinomori, *Japan Inc.* (University of California Press, 1988), all.

**WEEK 16: THE LOST DECADES, 3.11, AND BEYOND**

*APR. 28: THE LOST DECADES*

*APR. 30: 3.11, THE TRIPLE CRISES, AND ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN*

**Assignment: Term paper due by April 30.**

*MHJ*, Ch. 17, pp. 308-334.

Richard Katz, "The Japan Fallacy" *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2009) [**Available on Academic Search Premier**]

Franziska Seraphim, *War, Memory, and Social Politics in Japan, 1945-2005*, (HUP, 2008), 261-286.

Jeff Kingston, "Abe's Nuclear Energy Policy and Japan's Future," *The Asia-Pacific Journal: Japan Focus* (August 2013), <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Jeff-Kingston/3986>.

Primary Sources:

Kobayashi Yoshinori, "On War (*Sensōron*)," *SJT II*, 1290-93.

Ishizaka Sei, "A Just War (*Tadashii sensō*)." *SJT II*, 1295-98.