

## History of Modern Japan

### Section 1

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This course provides students with a broad survey of the political, economic, social and cultural developments in Japan, from the time of the Tokugawa Shogunate up to the recent past. Major themes include examining the rise and fall of the Shogunate, the "opening" of the nation, economic and technological development under the Meiji government, the crises of the Taisho and Showa eras, Japan at war, the postwar "miracle", the "bubble" period, and the "lost decade."

### Section 2

At the end of the course, students will :

- have acquired a broad general knowledge of the history of modern Japan
- be able to communicate effectively and analyze complex questions about the history of Modern Japan
- be able to understand the history of modern Japan within the wider scope of world history

### Section 3

Textbooks: Gordon, *A History of Modern Japan* (3rd edition); Natsume, *Kokoro* (Penguin Classics); *Musui's Story* (University of Arizona Press); Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (Pantheon). Selections from Cook and Cook, *Japan at War: an Oral History* (The New Press).

Lecture 1: Introduction to the Course—no readings

Lecture 2: Economic and Social Conditions in Premodern Japan— Gordon Chapter 1

Lecture 3: Establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate—Musui's Story p. 1-42

Lecture 4: Tokugawa at its Peak of Power— Musui's Story p. 43-98; Gordon Chapter 2

Lecture 5: Internal and External Challenges to the Regime— Musui's Story p. 98-146

Lecture 6: Downfall of the Tokugawa— Musui's Story p. 147-57; Gordon Ch. 4

Lecture 7: Meiji Restoration/Revolution— Gordon Chapter 5

Lecture 8: Meiji Reforms and the Remaking of Society—Paper 1 on Musui and Tokugawa Japan due

Lecture 9: Meiji Modernization— Gordon Chapter 6

Lecture 10: Quickening Pace of Change—Gordon Chapter 7

Lecture 11: Building of a Capitalist System— Gordon Chapter 8

Lecture 12: The Move Towards Empire— Review/prepare for Midterm Exam

Lecture 13: Midterm Exam During Class—Review/prepare for Midterm Exam

Lecture 14: Late Meiji—Kokoro Part 1

Lecture 15: Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars— Kokoro Part II

Lecture 16: Japan and World War I— Kokoro Part III

Lecture 17: Taisho Democracy— Gordon chapter 10

Lecture 18: Depression Era Economic and Political Change— Gordon chapter 11

Lecture 19: Japan, Asia and the West— Paper 2 on Kokoro due

Lecture 20: War with China— Gordon chapter 12

Lecture 21: Pearl Harbor and mobilization for war— Gordon chapter 12

Lecture 22: War at home and abroad— Dower chapters 1-2

Lecture 23: War at home and abroad— Dower chapters 4-5

Lecture 24: War at home and abroad— Dower chapters 8-9

Lecture 25: The bombing of Japan, Okinawa— Japan at War chapters 16-17

Lecture 26: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the surrender— Japan at War chapter 19

Lecture 27: The Allied Occupation— Gordon chapter 13

Lecture 28: The LDP and the Yoshida Doctrine— Gordon chapter 14

Lecture 29: The economic "miracle" and Japan-US relations— Gordon chapter 15

Lecture 30: The lost decade and contemporary challenges— Gordon chapter 17

#### Section 4

Final Exam: 30%; Quizzes or Midterm Exam: 30%; Writing Assignments: 20%; Class Participation: 20%. The writing assignments (2) are based on the readings and are listed on the syllabus. There will be a midterm and a final exam which consist of 2 sections: an identification section and an essay section. The midterm is worth 20% and quizzes are worth 10%. Class participation is based on participation in class discussions and preparedness throughout the semester.

#### Section 5

Attendance and active classroom participation are required in this course and are a significant part of the grade. To do well in the course, you should prepare all reading and writing assignments prior to each class meeting and be prepared to actively participate in class discussions. Thoughtful and informed discussions are an important part of the class.