

Semester: Fall 2019

## Topics in History D

### Turning Points in Japanese History

#### Section 1

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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

Most Japanese historians agree that the Meiji Restoration and the Pacific War were turning points in Japanese history that resulted in significant changes to Japanese society. In order to understand why historians feel this way, we will create a framework for analyzing a turning point, articulate the domestic and international forces/factors that shaped these two events, analyze the depth and breadth of change after these events, read what scholars say about these events, and formulate our own opinions on whether or not these two events truly are turning points. In addition, we will look at current issues and challenges facing Japan today and discuss whether Japan is in the midst of a turning point similar to these two previous events. This course will examine the economic, social, political, ideological and foreign policy aspects of these time periods and examine how these factors connected in shaping modern Japanese history.

#### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

At the end of this course students will be able to

- 1) explain the characteristics of an historical turning point,
- 2) explain the domestic and international forces that shaped the Meiji Restoration and the Pacific War,
- 3) analyze whether these two events can be considered turning points in modern Japanese history,
- 4) explain the issues facing Japan today and whether or not Japan is currently in the midst of a turning point.

#### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

#### Schedule of Assignments and Topics

Class Date	Topics	Reading for Class	Assignments Due
Class 1	Review syllabus; Japan's geography; review of pre-modern history	No reading	
Class 2	Framework for Turning Points Geography Quiz	Read article entitled "Pressure Points"; study for geography quiz	Complete handout on turning points

Class 3	Political Unification/Tokugawa Shogunate	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 73-91	
Class 4	Tokugawa Period -- economic, social, ideological and political	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 91-115	
Class 5	Discussion of who gained/lost from changes in Tokugawa Period		Written Assignment #1
Class 6	Kaikoku/Satsuma and Choshu/Meiji Restoration	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 116-133	
Class 7	Analysis of Meiji Restoration	Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 56-78	Written Assignment #2
Class 8	Civilization and Enlightenment (1870s)	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 133-144; Read Duus, pp. 95-98; Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 83-89	
Class 9	Meiji Period -- economics, social, ideological	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 145-166	
Class 10	Meiji Period -- politics	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 166-178 Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 90-97	
Class 11	Meiji Period -- foreign policy	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 184-189	
Class 12	Analysis of Meiji Restoration as a turning point	Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 26-33, 104-111 Read Duus, pp. 99-102	Written Assignment #3
Class 13	Exam #1 on Meiji Period and Meiji Restoration	Review for Exam #1	
Class 14	1920s -- economics, social, ideological	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 190-223	

Class 15	1920s – politics	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 224-233, 236-244	
Class 16	1920s – foreign policy	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 233-236 Read Iriye, pp. 36-62	
Class 17	1930s Militarism	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 245-257 Read Iriye, pp. 63-72	
Class 18	China War/1939-1941	Read Iriye, pp. 73-87 Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 257-267	
Class 19	Pearl Harbor and Pacific War	Read Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 8 (pp. 268-276) Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 308-315	
Class 20	Discussion of Japanese militarism and Japan's decision to go to war	Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 293-307, 316-322	Written Assignment #4
Class 21	Allied Occupation	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 268-287	
Class 22	Postwar Period – economics/social	Read Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 8 pp. 288-307, 320-327	
Class 23	Postwar -- politics, foreign policy	Read Reischauer/Craig, pp. 307-320, 328-335	
Class 24	Analysis/discussion of the Pacific War as a turning point/significance of Allied Occupation	Read Wray/Conroy, pp. 335-356	Written Assignment #5

Class 25	Exam #2 on 1920s, 1930s, Occupation and Postwar Period, and the Pacific War as a turning point	Review for Exam #2	
Class 26	Contemporary Japan – economics and business	Read assigned essays from <i>Reimagining Japan</i>	
Class 27	Contemporary Japan – society	Read assigned essays from <i>Reimagining Japan</i>	
Class 28	Contemporary Japan – politics and foreign policy	Read assigned essays from <i>Reimagining Japan</i>	
Class 29	Discussion of Interview Project	Prepare Interview Project	Written report on Interview Project
Class 30	Discussion of contemporary Japan as a turning point	Prepare to discuss contemporary Japan as a turning point	
	Final Exam/Essay -- date to be determined Topic: Postwar Period and whether contemporary Japan is at a turning point		

**【Textbooks/Reading Materials】**

Required Texts:

Reischauer, Edwin O. and Albert M. Craig, *Japan, Tradition & Transformation*, Revised Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company, 1989

Selected readings from

*Japan Examined*, edited by Wray and Conroy

*Feudalism in Japan* by Peter Duus

*Japan and the Wider World* by Akira Iriye

*Reimagining Japan, The Quest for a Future That Works* edited by McKinsey & Company

All texts/materials will be provided by the professor.

**Section 4**

**【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】**

Evaluation will be based on the following:

- 25% = Class participation (based on reading assignments)
- 20% = Written assignments
- 20% = Exam #1
- 20% = Exam #2
- 5% = Interview project
- 10% = Final Exam/Essay

Since class participation is a significant part of the student's contribution to the course and to his/her grade, regular attendance is expected. Being absent from or late to class will lower your class participation grade. Students may discuss their class participation grade with the professor at any time throughout the term. Exams and writing assignments will be graded and returned to students in a timely manner.