

KODAI to GENDAI

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Ghosh Dastidar, Debasrita
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【Course Outline / Description】

This course examines the scope of Japanese Society and Culture from ancient to modern times. Students are expected to recognize how the rich history of Japan played a vital role in shaping the present through the study of various socio-cultural practices and norms. The scope would range from mythology, feudalism to post war trends of globalization. Students are encouraged to reflect and develop their own perspectives on social and cultural events that mark the various important developments of Japanese history.

Each module will be structured around a social or cultural subject. Students will be given take home readings or asked to explore and analyse the particular topic. Active student engagement and participation is encouraged for critical analysis and understanding of each module. Students will involve in individual, pair or group work. Each week there will be one out-of-class compulsory reading or other suggested readings. Basic knowledge of Japanese society and culture would be an advantage but not a requirement for the course.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Students should be able to;

- ✓ Learn the major events of Japanese history.
- ✓ Describe how Japanese history develops with time.
- ✓ Identify the key features of each period in Japanese history.
- ✓ Recognize the socio-political background of each period and how it affects individuals and subsequently influence literary works.
- ✓ Summarize own opinion about the relation between Japanese history.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Course schedule

Week	Session	Topic
1	1	Orientation
	2	Early Japan: Mythology
2	3	Nara Period
	4	Heian Period
3	5	Feudal Japan: Rise of Samurai/Battle of Heike
	6	Isolation/Sakoku: Edo Period
4	7	Isolation/Sakoku: Edo Period
	8	End of Sakoku/ Opening of Japan
5	9	Preparatory session: Mid-term Presentation
	10	Mid-term Presentation

6	11	Mid-term Presentation
	12	Modernization: Meiji period
7	13	Modernization: Meiji Constitution
	14	Modernization: Taisho period
8	15	Modernization: Taisho Democracy
	16	Rise of Militarism: Nanking Massacre
9	17	Rise of Militarism: WWII
	18	Rise of Militarism: Aftermath
10	19	New Japan: Occupation
	20	Review of Militarism
11	21	Post war Development
	22	Post war society and literature: Mishima Yukio
12	23	Post war society and literature: Abe Kobo
	24	Post war society and literature: Oe Kenzaburo
13	25	Post war society and literature: Murakami Haruki
	26	Preparatory session: Final Presentation
14	27	Final Presentation
	28	Final Presentation
15	29	Final Presentation
	30	Course Review and Feedback

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Gordon, Andrew *A modern history of Japan*, Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 26, 2013)

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Assessment:

Final Exam 40% (Presentation & Essay)

Midterm Exam 40% (Presentation & Essay)

Class Participation 20% (Attendance and class participation)

Mid-term & Final presentations will be assessed as below (20 points each);

Content: Presentation shows valuable material and relevance of topic.

Background research: Evidence of Literature review, research methods and analysis of findings.

Organization Well organized and easy to follow slides.

Delivery: Speak clearly, Tone and clarity of words, use of vocabulary,

Interaction: Engaged the audience. Body language and eye contact

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Study packets for the course will be provided on the day of Orientation.