

History of Modern Japan

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Scott C.M.Bailey/Assistant Professor
Office/Building	406/Gotenyama Campus
Office Hours	Email for a Zoom appointment
Contacts (E-mail)	sbailey@kansaigaidai.ac.jp

【Course Outline / Description】

This course provides students with a broad survey of the political, economic, social and cultural developments in Japan, from the era 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," and the "lost decade(s)." An important emphasis throughout the course is on Japan's role in the wider world, how events in Japan were impacted by global forces, and how Japan in turn contributed to global historical changes.

Each class session is very interactive. A typical session involves a combination of brief lectures, source analyses, viewing of film clips or other visual sources, and group discussions or class discussions about that day's assigned readings. By the end of the course students will have a good general knowledge of Japan's history, in the wider context of world history, since about 1600 CE.

Students will write three papers in the course, which are based on assigned readings and require students to effectively utilize the source materials in constructing their arguments. Participation in daily class discussions is also a significant part of the students' grade, so active and involved participation, as well as conscientious reading of assignments is a requirement of the class. There are also weekly discussions board postings which make up part of the student's participation grade. These require analysis, research, and appropriate use of historical source materials.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

The goal of the course is not to analyze the history of Japan "in a box," but to understand how the modern history of the nation has been impacted by global historical changes, while also understanding how some of the unique cultural characteristics of Japan's peoples and other internal factors also exerted a profound influence on historical change and continuity. This means that a considerable part of our analysis of Japan's modern history is done from a comparative viewpoint, in which we compare and contrast the developments in Japan with what happened in societies with similar or contrasting historical experiences.

By 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 context of world history.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

All Zoom session information, including meeting ID numbers and passcodes, will be provided to students on the course Blackboard page.

Tuesday January 26 3pm-4:30pm JST on Zoom- Synchronous Zoom Session: Introduction to the course

January 26-February 1 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 1-** Topic for this week is “Economic and Social Conditions in Premodern Japan” (Read Gordon Chapter 1, *Musui’s Story* pp. 1-42, plus other materials in assignments folder)

Tuesday February 2 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate”

February 2-8 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 2 -** Topic for this week is “Tokugawa at its Peak of Power” (Read *Musui’s Story* p. 43-98; Gordon Chapter 2, *Musui’s Story* p. 98-146, plus other materials in assignments folder)

Tuesday February 9 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Internal and External Challenges to the Regime”

February 9-15 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 3 -** Topic for this week is “Downfall of the Tokugawa” (Read *Musui’s Story* p. 147-57; Gordon Ch. 4, Ch.5, plus other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday February 16 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Meiji Restoration/Revolution”

February 16-22 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 4-** Main topic for this week is “Meiji Reforms and the Remaking of Society” (Read Gordon 6, plus other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday February 23: NO CLASS- HOLIDAY (Emperor’s Birthday)

February 23-March 1 Asynchronous- Work on first paper-Paper will be available to students on Wednesday February 24th-- **First paper due March 1st by 6pm JST- Submit on Blackboard**

Tuesday March 2 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Industrial Age in Japan” (Read Gordon Chapter 7 prior to this session)

March 2-8 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 5 –**Main topic for this week: “Building of a Capitalist System” (Read Gordon Chapter 8, plus other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday March 9 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “The Move Towards Empire”

March 10-22 Spring Break period and Asynchronous—no class on Tuesday March 16 Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 6** Main topic for this period: “Late Meiji” (Read Gordon Chapter 9, *Kokoro* Part I, and other materials in this period’s assignments folder)

Tuesday March 23 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Late Meiji”

March 23-29 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 7** Main topic for this week: “Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars” (Read *Kokoro* Part II, *Kokoro* Part III, and other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday March 30 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Japan and World War I,” wrap-up discussion on *Kokoro*

March 30-April 5 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 8** Main topic for this week: “Taisho Democracy” (Read Gordon Chapter 10 and other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday April 6 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Depression Era Economic and Political Change”

April 6-12 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 9** Main topic for this week: “Japan, Asia, and the West” (Read Gordon Chapter 11, chapter 12, and other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday April 13 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “War with China, Pearl Harbor and Mobilization for War,” Review for 2nd paper

April 13-19 Asynchronous- 2nd paper due April 19th by April 19th 6pm JST Submit via Blackboard

Tuesday April 20 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “War at Home and Abroad” (Read Dower Chapter 1, 2 and other materials in the assignments folder)

April 20-26 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 10** “War at Home and Abroad” (Read Dower Chapter 4-5, 8-9 and other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday April 27 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “War at Home and Abroad,” wrap-up discussion on Dower

April 27-May 10 Golden Week Holidays- no class on Tuesday May 4th- Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 11** Main topic for this week: “The Bombing of Japan” (Read *Japan at War* Chapter 16, 17, and 19, and other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday May 11 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the Surrender,” wrap-up discussion about *Japan at War*

May 11-17 Asynchronous- Read assignments and post thoughts to **Forum 12-** Main topic for this week: “The Allied Occupation” (Read Gordon Chapter 13, 14, 15 and other materials in this week’s assignments folder)

Tuesday May 18 3pm-4:30pm JST Synchronous Zoom Session: “The LDP and the Yoshida Doctrine,” “The “Economic Miracle,”” and “Japan-US Postwar Relations,” Final Paper Review

May 18-24 Asynchronous- Final Paper- due May 25th by 6pm JST, submit on Blackboard

Syllabus and reading assignments are subject to change. The most updated information is found on the course Blackboard page.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

- Andrew Gordon, *A History of Modern Japan* (Oxford University Press)
- Natsume Soseki, *Kokoro* (Penguin Classics)
- Katsu Kokichi, *Musui’s Story* (University of Arizona Press)
- John W. Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* (Pantheon Books)
- Haruyo Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History* (The New Press)
- Many articles, primary sources, videos, and other relevant materials will also be assigned and listed in the weekly “Assignments” folders on Blackboard

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Papers (3)- 20% each, 60% of total grade

Class participation in synchronous Zoom sessions- 20%

Participation in asynchronous work- 20%

The **papers (3 of them)** are based on the readings and are worth a combined 60% (or 20% each). Each paper should be 1500-3000 words. Papers must include footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations and a bibliography listing all sources used (books, articles, internet sites, etc.). These will be based on the material covered in the class, including the readings. To do well, you will need to keep up with the reading and take good notes during all class sessions.

Class participation in synchronous Zoom sessions is based on active and involved participation in discussions and activities, preparedness throughout the semester (demonstrating that you have done the readings and are engaging with the material) and maintaining a positive attitude in our sessions. Class participation is worth 20% of your final grade.

Participation in asynchronous work is the grade for weekly asynchronous assignments. Most weeks, students will be given a folder of assignments to read and questions to discuss using the “discussions” section of Blackboard. Each week’s discussions board postings (called forums) will be graded from 0-10 points based on content, organization, clarity of writing, and use of sources to support your responses. Each forum posting must be properly formatted, using both internal citations/references and a bibliography or works cited. Each

forum posting is a minimum of 250 words (no maximum). Participation in asynchronous work is worth 20% of your final grade.

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Attendance and active 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.