

## History of Modern Japan

### Section 1

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#### 【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 exams 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, are requirement of the class. There are also periodic discussion board postings (called forums) 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 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; and be able to understand the history of modern Japan within the wider context of world history.

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### Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

**Lesson 1** Topic: Introduction to the course- Assignments: None

**Lesson 2** Topic: “Economic and Social Conditions in Premodern Japan”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 1 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 3** Topic: “Economic and Social Conditions in Premodern Japan”- Assignments: Read *Musui’s Story* pgs. 1-42 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 4** Topic: “Establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate”- Assignments: Read *Musui’s Story* pgs. 43-98 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 5** Topic: “Tokugawa at the Peak of its Power”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 2 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 6** Topic: “Tokugawa at the Peak of its Power”- Assignments: Read *Musui’s Story* pgs. 98-146 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 7** Topic: “Internal and External Challenges to the Regime”- Assignments: Read *Musui’s Story* pgs. 147-157, Gordon Chapter 4 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 8** Topic: “Downfall of the Tokugawa”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 5 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard- **Forum 1 due**

**Lesson 9** Topic: “Meiji Restoration/Revolution”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 6 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 10** Topic: “Industrial Age in Japan”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 7 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard, Prepare for Exam I Review

**Lesson 11- Review for Exam and Exam I during class today**

**Lesson 12** Topic: “Building of a Capitalist System”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 8 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 13** Topic: “The Move Towards Empire” - Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 9 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 14** Topic: “Late Meiji”- Assignments: Read *Bushido* Part I plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 15** Topic: “Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars”- Assignments: Read *Bushido* Part II plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 16** Topic: “Japan and World War I”- Assignments: Read *Bushido* Part III plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 17** Topic: “Taisho Democracy”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 10 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard **Forum 2 due**

**Lesson 18** Topic: “Depression Era Economic and Political Change”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 11 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 19** Topic: “Japan, Asia, and the West”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 12 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

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**Lesson 20** Topic: “War with China, Pearl Harbor and Mobilization for War”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 12 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard, Prepare for Exam II review

**Lesson 21- Review for Exam and Exam II during class today**

**Lesson 22** Topic: “War at Home and Abroad” - Assignments: Read *War Without Mercy* Chapter 1 and 2 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 23** Topic: “War at Home and Abroad”- Assignments: Read *War Without Mercy* Chapter 4 and 5 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 24** Topic: “War at Home and Abroad”- Assignments: Read *War Without Mercy* Chapter 8 and 9 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 25** Topic: “The Bombing of Japan”- Assignments: Read *Japan at War* Chapter 16, 17 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 26** Topic: “The Bombing of Japan”- Assignments: Read *Japan at War* Chapter 19 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard **Forum 3 due**

**Lesson 27** Topic: “The Allied Occupation”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 13 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 28** Topic: “The LDP and the Yoshida Doctrine”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 14 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 29** Topic: “The Economic Miracle”- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 15 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard, Prepare for Final Exam Review

**Lesson 30** Topic: “Late Showa and Heisei Japan;” “Contemporary Issues in Japan” and Final Exam Review- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 16 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Final Exam Schedule: TBA**

**Please note that details of the above schedule are subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class.**

### 【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

- William Theodore de Bary, Carol Gluck, and Arthur E. Tiedemann, *Sources of Japanese Tradition 1600 to 2000* (Columbia University Press)
- Andrew Gordon, *A History of Modern Japan* (Oxford University Press)
- Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story* (University of Arizona Press)
- Nitobe Inazo, *Bushido: The Soul of Japan* (G.P. Putnam's Sons)
- 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)
- Other articles, primary sources, secondary sources, videos, and other relevant materials will also be assigned and listed in the “Assignments” folders on Blackboard

### Section 4

#### 【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

## 2023 Spring Semester

**Exams (x's 3)- 20% each, 60% of total grade**

**Class participation- 20%**

**Forum Postings- 20%**

The **Exams (3)** are worth a combined 60% (or 20% each). These will be based on the material covered in the class, including the readings, lectures, and activities. To do well, you will need to keep up with the readings and take good notes during all class sessions. The exams are a combination of identification items and essay questions.

**Class participation** 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. Class participation is worth 20% of your final grade. Attendance is required for all sessions.

**Forum postings** are periodic responses to the readings which are conducted on Blackboard in the "discussions" section. Students will be given assignments to read and questions to discuss. Each forum posting will be graded from 0-10 points based on content, organization, clarity of writing, and use of sources to support your responses. It must be properly formatted, using both internal citations/references (footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical citations) and a bibliography/works cited. Each forum posting should be a minimum of 250 words (no maximum). Include a word count at the end. These are worth 20% of your final grade for the class.

### 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. Thoughtful and informed discussions are an important part of the class.