

## History of Modern Japan

### Section 1

Instructor	Scott C.M. Bailey
Office/Building	3307
Office Hours	By appointment

#### 【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 two 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 a requirement of the class. There is also group research presentation, which requires students to collaborate with their group in researching a topic related to the history of modern Japan. Experiential learning is, therefore, an important part of the course.

### 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; be able to collaborate effectively in a research project group; and be able to understand the history of modern Japan within the wider context of world history.

## 2024 Spring Semester

### 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 **Formation of Research Presentation Groups (Groups should begin collaborating on possible topics for their presentation)**

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

**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** Topic: Building of a Capitalist System- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 8 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard **Group Research Project Workshop I**

**Lesson 12** Topic: The Move Towards Empire - Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 9 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard **Group Research Presentation Proposal Due**

**Lesson 13** Topic: Late Meiji- Assignments: Read *Bushido* Part I plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 14** Topic: Sino-Japanese and Russo-Japanese Wars, **Midterm Exam Review**- Assignments: Read *Bushido* Part II plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 15** Topic: **Review for Midterm Exam and Midterm Exam during class today**- Assignments: Prepare for Midterm Exam

**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 **Group Research Project Workshop II**

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**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

**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** 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 22** 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 23** 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 24** Topic: The Bombing of Japan- Assignments: Read *Japan at War* Chapter 16, 17 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard- **Group Research Project Workshop III**

**Lesson 25** Topic: The Bombing of Japan- Assignments: Read *Japan at War* Chapter 19 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard **Group Research Presentations Files Due**

**Lesson 26** Topic: The Allied Occupation- **Group Research Presentations**- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 13 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 27** Topic: The LDP and the Yoshida Doctrine- **Group Research Presentations**- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 14 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 28** Topic: The Economic Miracle- **Group Research Presentations**-Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 15 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard, Prepare for Final Exam Review

**Lesson 29** Topic: Late Showa and Heisei Japan- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 16 plus additional materials in the Assignments folder on Blackboard

**Lesson 30** Topic: , Contemporary Issues in Japan, **Final Exam Review**, Final Reflections and Peer Review- Assignments: Read Gordon Chapter 17 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)

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- 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】

**Exams (x's 2)- 30% each, 60% of total grade**

**Class participation- 15%**

**Group Research Project and Presentation- 25%**

The **Exams (2)** are worth a combined 60% (or 30% 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. This part of your grade also includes homework assignments, quizzes, and discussion board postings. Class participation is worth 15% of your final grade.

The **Group Research Project and Presentation** is based on a historical topic of the students' choice (related to a location of historical interest and connected with the history of modern Japan). Students must demonstrate that they worked together collaboratively to prepare their Research Project and Presentation. The project will require meetings among group members. This project will also require the use and proper citation of historical sources. As part of the project, students must visit a local historical site, museum, or place of historical or cultural significance together as a group. The group will work together to make a presentation based on their research of their topic and what they found out when visiting their chosen location. Students will be required to complete peer reviews at the end of this process. Grades will be based on group collaboration, appearance of the presentation files, communication of the presentation, historical content of the presentation, and analysis of the research question. This project is worth 25% of your grade.

Further information about all assessments are provided to students during 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 assignments prior to each class meeting and be prepared to actively participate. Thoughtful and informed discussions are an important part of the class.