

MODERN JAPANESE HISTORY: 1600 ~ PRESENT

This course surveys the dramatic transformation of Japan from isolated feudal state to expansionist empire to modern economic superpower and producer of hybrid cars, cool games, cute characters, and wacky TV.

The course has two principal aims:

1. to become conversant with a general narrative of events from 1600 to the present
2. to introduce the most powerful tool of historical analysis: an awareness of the importance of interpretation

As such, you will be asked not only to identify important people and events but also to identify and contemplate different perspectives on the past and present.

TEXTS

Please purchase the following text, available at the University Coop

- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*
(any version OK, 2013 is best)

Optional supplementary readings will be posted to the Google Group.

REQUIREMENTS

• *Undergraduate*

- Attendance/participation: 33%
- Weekly reading response (1 paragraph): 33%
- Final paper (5-10 pages, analytical) *and/or* presentation: 33%

• *Graduate*

- Attendance/participation: 33%
- Weekly reading response (1 paragraph): 33%
- Final paper (20-25 pages, research) *and* presentation: 33%

SCHEDULE (Outline)

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Tokugawa (1600-1868)
- 3 Tokugawa – Meiji (1868-1912)
- 4 Social Darwinism and the Sino-Japanese War
- 5 Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) and the Culture of Protest
- 6 Taishō (1912-1925) and WWI as Opportunity
- 7 The Roaring '20s and Wilsonian Era International Japan
- 8 The '30s: Crises at Home
- 9 The '30s: Isolationism and Militarism
- 10 TBA... (*all TBA from here*)