

## 772: Readings in Modern Japanese History

Fall 2015 Wed 4th

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This seminar will examine the principal debates after 1945 in the writing of modern Japanese history. We will cover the Tokugawa era (1600-1868) through the immediate postwar years and pay special attention to the ways in which analyses of modern Japan have changed over time and across national boundaries (principally, in the United States and Japan). The course aims to give graduate students a firm grasp of the latest scholarship on modern Japan and of some of its most visible personalities. Requirements are structured to offer practical training in several critical aspects of academic life.

### Texts

All readings will be provided as PDFs or are available online.

For very useful surveys of major historiographical debates in the history of modern Japan, see the library's electronic copy of William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History* (2007).

### Requirements

	%
1) Attendance / Participation	40
2) Short Papers (c. 3~5p. ea.)	30 (15 ea.)
3) Final Paper / Project (proposal = 5; presentation = 10; paper = 15)	30

\* Paper and project guidelines provided through the course website.

### Course Itinerary

#### Week I

Intro

#### Week II Changing Postwar Visions

- Norman, E. Herbert. *Japan's Emergence as a Modern State: Political and Economic Problems of the Meiji Period*, 3-48. NY: International Secretariat, Institute of Pacific Relations, 1940.  
<http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015000673585;view=2up;seq=24>
- Jansen, Marius B. "Changing Japanese Attitudes toward Modernization." In *Changing Japanese Attitudes Toward Modernization*, edited by Marius B. Jansen and Robert N. Bellah, 43-98. Princeton University Press, 1965.
- Garon, Sheldon. "Rethinking Modernization and Modernity in Japanese History: A Focus on State-Society Relations." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 53, no. 2 (May 1, 1994): 346-66.  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2059838>

#### Week III Travel, Print, and Gender in Tokugawa Japan

- Berry, Mary Elizabeth. *Japan in Print: Information and Nation in the Early Modern Period*. University of California Press, 2006. Ch 1, 2.

- Nenzi, Laura Nenz Detto. *Excursions in Identity: Travel and the Intersection of Place, Gender, and Status in Edo Japan*. University of Hawai'i Press, 2008. Ch 2, 3.

#### Week IV Tokugawa-Meiji Transition Revisited

##### **Due: Writing #1**

- Gluck, Carol. *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period*. Princeton University Press, 1985. Ch 1.
- Botsman, Daniel. *Punishment and Power in the Making of Modern Japan*. Princeton University Press, 2005. Ch 1, Conclusion (2 also recommended).

#### Week V Emperor

- Chamberlain, Basil Hall. *The Invention of a New Religion*.  
<http://archive.org/details/theinventionofan02510gut>.
- Hall, John Whitney. "A Monarch for Modern Japan." In *Political Development in Modern Japan*, edited by Robert Edward Ward, Ardath W Burks, and Conference on Modern Japan, 11–64. Princeton University Press, 1968.
- Fujitani, Takashi. *Splendid Monarchy: Power and Pageantry in Modern Japan*. University of California Press, 1998. Intro, Epilogue.

#### Week VI Empire and Ethnicity

- Duus, Peter. *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910*. University of California Press, 1995. Ch 7, 11, Conclusion.
- Eskildsen, Robert. "Of Civilization and Savages: The Mimetic Imperialism of Japan's 1874 Expedition to Taiwan." *American Historical Review*, 2002, 388–418.
- Uchida, Jun. "A Sentimental Journey: Mapping the Interior Frontier of Japanese Settlers in Colonial Korea." *The Journal of Asian Studies* 70, no. 03 (2011): 706–29.

#### Week VII

##### **Due: Project / Paper Proposal**

#### Week VIII Taishō Politics and Society

- Harootunian, Harry D. "Introduction: A Sense of an Ending and the Problem of Taishō." In *Japan in Crisis: Essays on Taishō Democracy*, edited by Bernard S Silberman, Harry D Harootunian, and Gail Bernstein, 3–28. Center for Japanese Studies, the University of Michigan, 1999.
- Dickinson, Frederick R. *World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930*. Cambridge and NY: Cambridge University Press, 2013. Ch 4, 7.
- Garon, Sheldon. *Molding Japanese Minds: The State in Everyday Life*. Princeton University Press, 1997. TBA/Optional

#### Week IX Geography and Environment

##### **Due: Writing #2**

- Wigen, Kären. *The Making of a Japanese Periphery, 1750-1920*. University of California Press, 1995. Ch 1, 8.
- Walker, Brett L. *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800*. University of California Press, 2001. Intro, Ch 3.

#### Week X The Domestic and Everyday

- Hanley, Susan. *Everyday Things in Premodern Japan: The Hidden Legacy of Material Culture*. University of California Press, 1997. Preface, Ch 1-3 (4 also recommended).
- Sand, Jordan. *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, 1880-1930*. Harvard University Asia Center. Distributed by Harvard University Press, 2003. Intro, Ch 5, Conclusion.

Week XI Advertising, Consumption, Gender

- Weisenfeld, Gennifer. "Selling Shiseido I - Cosmetics Advertising & Design in Early 20th-Century Japan." *MIT Visualizing Cultures*, 2009.  
[http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/shiseido\\_01/](http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/shiseido_01/).

Week XII TBA

**Presentation of Projects/Papers?**

Week XIII TBA

**Presentation of Projects/Papers?**

**PAPERS/PROJETS DUE: LAST DAY OF FINAL EXAMS**