Historiography of Modern Japan

Week One (9/6) Introductory discussion

Week Two (9/13) Perspectives on Modernization and Modernity


Week Three (9/20) Perspectives on State and Nation in the Meiji Era

Irokawa Daikichi, The Culture of the Meiji Period, chs. 3. 8

Carol Gluck, Japan’s Modern Myths, chs. 1-4, 8-9

Greg Clancey, Earthquake Nation: The Cultural Politics of Japanese Seismicity (Chs 1-4)

Marnie S. Anderson, A Public Place: Women’s Rights in Meiji Japan (Chs TBD)


Section Two: Imperial Japan, State and Society
Week Four (9/27): **State, Parties, and Policy**

*Sheldon Garon, State and Labor in Modern Japan*, chs. 1-4.
Greg Clancey, *Earthquake Nation* (remainder)


Week Five (10/4) **Subjects, Citizens and the State**

*Andrew Gordon, Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan*, chs 1-2, 5, 8-9.
Ken Kawashima, *The Proletarian Gamble: Korean Workers in Interwar Japan*, intro, chs 1, 4-5.


Week Six (10/11) **Gender, Politics, Society**


Week Seven (10/18) **Agrarian Society, Economy and Politics**

Kerry Smith, *A Time of Crisis: Japan, the Great Depression, and Rural Revitalization*, Chs 1-3, 6, 9-10.


Week Eight (10/25) **City Life, Middle Class and Modernity**
**Mark Jones, Children as Treasures: Childhood and the Middle Class in Early Twentieth Century Japan** (Chs tbd)

**Section Three: Empire and Modernity**

Week Nine (11/1) **Expanding and Managing Empire**

*Louise Young, *Japan’s Total Empire* (Chs. 1-3, 6, 10).
**Mark Caprio, Japanese Assimilation Policies in Colonial Korea (Chs tbd)**


Week Ten (11/8) **Empire and War; Intellectuals and Technocrats**

Haroottunian, *Overcome By Modernity: History, Culture and Community in Interwar Japan* (Chs 1-3).
**Janis Mimura, Planning for Empire: Reform Bureaucrats and the Japanese Wartime State**


**Section Four: Wartime, Transwar, Postwar History**

Week Eleven (11/15) **World War II, US and Japan**

*T. Fujitani, Racism under Fire* (forthcoming), Introduction and Part I.

Week Twelve (11/22): **Aftermath of Empire**

John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* [excerpts tbd]
Lori Watt, *When Empire Comes Home: Repatriation and Reintegration in Postwar Japan*

Recommended: Franziska Seraphim, *War Memory and Social Politics in Japan: 1945-2005*

Week Thirteen (11/29) **State and Society in War and Postwar**

Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle* chs. 1, 3-6.
*Sheldon Garon, Molding Japanese Minds* Part II (excerpts).


**Organization of the course**

Discussion of the required readings will be the heart of the course. To facilitate discussion, each student on two occasions will be required to post to the course website two or three discussion questions raised by the required readings (by 7 pm on Wednesday) and will lead discussion of those questions in class. In addition, students will be responsible for writing a short (2-3 page) critique of one of the recommended readings up to four times during the semester (depending on enrollment, to be posted to the “shared documents” section of the website and briefly introduced in class. We will allocate these assignments in the second class meeting.

**Access to readings:**

All readings are either on normal reserve or “e-reserve” at the Harvard Yenching Library. Those marked by asterisk (*) are on e-reserve. There should also be multiple copies of most all books available in various Harvard libraries—Widener, Lamont, Hilles, Japan Documentation Center. I encourage you to purchase these books to the extent possible.

**Reading Period assignment (due December 12):**

Write a “state of the field” essay on a sub-field in modern Japanese history, looking at both recent and older works (approx 10-15 pages). Details of these assignments will be discussed in class.

**Grading:**

Participation in weekly discussions, included class presentations, will count for 80 percent of the grade. The reading period assignment will count for 20 percent.