Historiography of Modern Japan (updated 9/20 with discussion leaders)

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 Late Meiji Era [Yung Hian Ng]

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

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


Section Two: Imperial Japan, State and Society

Week Four (9/27): State and (male)Subjects and Citizens, 1910s-30s [Susan Taylor]

*Sheldon Garon, State and Labor in Modern Japan, chs. 1-4.
*Andrew Gordon, Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan, chs 1-2, 5, 8-9.
Frederick R. Dickinson, World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930 Introduction and chs. 1-2, 4, 7-8, Conclusion


Week Five (10/4) State and (female)Subjects and Citizens , 1920a-1930s [Sara Kang]

*Sheldon Garon, Molding Japanese Minds Part I.
Elyssa Faisson, Managing Women: Disciplining Labor in Modern Japan intro, chs 4-5.


Week Six (10/11) City Life, Middle Class and Modernity [Susan Taylor]

*Jordan Sand, House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, Intro, Chs. 1-2, 5-7, 10.
Gordon, Fabricating Consumers, Intro, Chs 1-3.

Recommended: Elise Tipton and John Clark, Being Modern in Japan: Culture and Society in the 1910s to the 1930s, chs. 4, 5, 7, 10, 11. Mark Jones, Children as Treasures: Childhood and the Middle Class in Early Twentieth Century Japan. Kerry Ross, Photography for Everyone: The Cultural Lives of Cameras and Consumers in Early Twentieth-Century Japan.

Week Seven (10/18) Agrarian Japan: Society, Economy, Environment, Politics [John Hayashi]

Kerry Smith, A Time of Crisis: Japan, the Great Depression, and Rural Revitalization, Chs 1-3, 6, 9-10.
Philip C. Brown, “Constructing Nature” in Miller, Thomas, Walker, eds, Japan at Nature’s Edge

### Section Three: Empire, War and Modernity

**Week Eight (10/25)** Expanding and Managing Empire: Korea [Sujin Han]


Jun Uchida, *Brokers of Empire*, Introduction, Chs. 1, 2, 6.


**Week Nine (11/1): Empire and Technocratic Imagination: Manchuria [Yung Hian Ng]*

*Louise Young, Japan’s Total Empire* Chs. 1-3, 6, 10.

Aaron S. Moore, *Constructing East Asia: Technology, Ideology, and Empire in Japan’s Wartime Era, 1931-1945*, Introduction, Chs. 1, 3, and epilogue.


**Week Ten (11/8)** Fascism and War [Sujin Han]


Reto Hoffman, *The Fascist Effect*, chs. 3-end.

Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Japan*, ch. 11 and conclusion.

Ian J. Miller, *Nature of the Beasts* Introduction and ch. 4


### Section Four: Transwar and Postwar History
Week Eleven (11/15) **World War II, US and Japan  [John Hayashi]**


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Week Twelve (11/22): **Aftermath of Empire  [Ye seul Byeon]**

John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* chs 1-4, 6-8.
Andrew Barshay, *The Gods Left First*, Prologue, chs. 1, 3 (pp. 1-45, 81-120)

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Week Thirteen (11/29) **Postwar Politics, Policy and Culture  [Sara Kang]**

*Sheldon Garon, *Molding Japanese Minds* Part II Chs. 5-6.*

Organization of the course

Discussion of the required readings will be the heart of the course. To facilitate discussion, each student on one occasion will be required to post to the course website two discussion questions raised by the required readings (by 7 pm on Monday) and will lead discussion of those questions in class during the first portion of the class. In addition, students will be responsible for writing a short (2-3 page) critique of one of the recommended readings two times during the semester, 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 new or used to the extent possible.

Reading Period assignment (due Thursday, December 8):

Write a review essay focused on three of the recommended readings (excluding those you have already reviewed). Approximately 3000 words. Firm maximum of 4000 words. Details of the assignment 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 and term time book reviews will count for 20 percent.