Course description
This course surveys the history of modern Japan from the mid nineteenth century to the present. We will look at the creation and operation of the apparatuses of modernity in Japan: the nation-state, industrial capitalism, empire, mass society and mass culture. Readings draw heavily on primary materials such as autobiographies, essays, and novels, allowing us to explore Japanese assessments of their modern project, from the pursuit of European “civilization” in the late nineteenth century to “Americanization” in the postwar.

Course requirements
Your semester grade will be based on your participation in class discussions (20%) as well as the midterm (30%) and final (50%) examinations. In addition to class meetings, there will be three evening movie screenings.

Class schedule
September 2  Japan on the eve of the Meiji Restoration
September 4  the feudal crisis
September 9  discussion: Musui’s Story
September 11 Meiji Restoration
September 16 Revolution from Above
September 18 civilization and enlightenment
September 23 a new culture of politics
September 23 or 24 **evening viewing of Mistress
September 25 discussion: Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi
September 30 social transformation of early Meiji
October 2  the Meiji constitution
October 7  imperialism
October 9  discussion: And Then
October 14  capitalism; **HAND OUT MIDTERM**
October 16  the countryside
October 21  urbanization; **MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS**
October 23  discussion: Naomi
October 28  crisis I: empire
October 30  crisis II: politics and economy
November 4  overcoming the modern
November 6  discussion: Japan at War
November 11  world war two in Asia
November 13  view: Grave of the Fireflies
November 12 or 13  **evening viewing of Hellfire**
November 18  a-bomb
November 20  discussion: public memory readings
November 25  defeat and occupation
November 27  Thanksgiving: no class
December 2  the Japanese “miracle”
December 2 or 3  **evening viewing of Godzilla**
December 4  Americanization
December 9  discussion: Made in Japan and other Japanese “Business Novels”; Kitchen
December 11  summary and review for final

Readings
The following titles are available for purchase at the UW bookstore.
KATSU Kokichi, Musui’s Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai, trans. by Teruko Craig (University of Arizona Press)
NATSUME Sōseki, And Then, trans. Norma Field (University of Michigan)
Haruko COOK and Theodore COOK, Japan at War; An Oral History (The New Press)
YOSHIMOTO Banana, Kitchen, trans. by Megan Backer (Pocket Books)
Made in Japan and other Japanese “Business Novels”, trans. Tamae K. Prindle (M.E. Sharpe)

A coursepack including the following will be on sale at the Humanities Copy Center.
Hirobumi Ito, Commentaries on the Constitution of the Empire of Japan, 1-14, 23-28, 38-71
Joshua Fogel, ed., The Nanjing Massacre in History and Historiography (U.C> Press), 70-132
Michael J. Hogan, Hiroshima in History and Memory, 1-10, 116-167.
Copies of the required books and the coursepack will also be placed on reserve.

**Reading assignments**

Complete the following reading assignments by the date listed. Starred items are part of the course pack.

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>9/4</td>
<td><em>A Modern History of Japan</em>, 9-59</td>
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<td>9/9</td>
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<td><em>A Modern History of Japan</em>, 61-114</td>
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<td><strong>Commentaries on the Constitution</strong>, 1-14, 23-28, 38-71; <em>A Modern History of Japan</em>, 113-137</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>10/30</td>
<td><em>A Modern History of Japan</em>, 139-203</td>
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<td>11/6</td>
<td><em>Japan at War</em>, 3-144, 169-186, 203-220, 240-258</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11/11</td>
<td><em>A Modern History of Japan</em>, pp. 204-243</td>
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