Course Description
This course is designed to help students develop bibliographic and historiographic command of modern Japanese history as a teaching and research field. The class is divided into two parts. We open with a series of discussions about the ways American academic institutions and scholarship has constituted Japan as a field of studies from the 1950s to the present. This section of the class will include one session on Japanese language historiography for those with advanced language skills, though alternative assignments will be offered for students who cannot read Japanese. The remainder of the course takes up key categories around which historical debate has organized itself. We will consider how these categories have been conceptualized and historicized, exploring what has been written into and what has been left out of the master narratives of Japanese modernity. Sessions are organized around the following themes: Japan in the world/the world in Japan; configurations of capitalism; social history old and new; culture and knowledge after the cultural turn; state/polity/governmentality.

Japanese language ability is not strictly required, though special assignments may be made for students with advanced reading ability and interest in exploring Japanese language historiography. The class will encourage you to make use of our wonderful Japanese-language library collection on the 4th floor of Memorial Library whether your point of access is rudimentary or advanced Japanese.

Course Requirements
1. Weekly response essays. Each week by 9:00 am the day our class meets, all students should send a short response essay to the course website. This one page essay may take any form you choose so long as you provide a thoughtful response to the readings. One standard format for response essays uses three basic paragraphs to structure your thoughts. The first paragraph summarizes the key arguments in the readings and their significance. The second paragraph analyzes how the week’s readings relate to other course material and outside texts. The third paragraph offers the student’s critical assessment of the week’s readings: What was most persuasive? What was least
persuasive? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the authors’
approaches? Which are the issues and questions that need more attention?
What kind of new research do the readings inspire?

2. **Annotated bibliography** on your MA/Phd topic or a Japanese history
teaching field, due 13 March on course website (with hard copy for
instructor). Students will prepare a bibliography covering work published
since 1945 on a single topic or category (e.g. empire, fascism, gender). The
bibliography should include 10-15 books and articles and be organized
thematically to highlight historiographic trends as well as questions of
method. Annotations may include brief descriptions of your thematic
categories and/or the titles included in the bibliography. Students will present
their conclusions orally as brief in-class presentations and in writing as
annotated bibliographies.

3. **Ten-page historiographic essay**, first draft due 24 April; final draft due 8
May. Ideally, this provides a textual analysis that builds off your annotated
bibliography. A historiographic essay analyzes debates in the field of
Japanese history around a particular topic, theme or methodology (e.g. World
War Two, economic development, social history). You can approach this in a
variety of ways: analyzing the politics of scholarship, the key interpretive fault
lines, how themes and methods shift over time, how concerns in the Japanese
history field intersect with broader trends in history-writing, or comparing
historical with other disciplinary approaches.

**Variable Credit**
The course may be taken for 1, 2 or 3 credits.
- Students registering for 1 credit are required to attend classes, prepare the
  weekly reading assignments and participate in class discussion.
- To earn 2 credits, in addition to the above requirements students must
  submit the weekly response essays and other short weekly assignments.
- For the full 3 credits, students must complete the assignments listed above
  as well as the annotated bibliography and historiographic essay.

**Extra Sessions**
There will be a number of extra sessions scheduled over the course of the
semester, usually Wednesday evenings (if that works out with student schedules).
- Two “metahistoriography” sessions will be organized in connection
  with History 854, Seminar on Modern China. Both classes will meet
together to discuss convergences and divergences in US knowledge
production on Japan and China. Dates and topics for discussion TBA.
  Attendance strongly recommended.
- One session to share and critique paper drafts, to be scheduled after
  April 24. Attendance required.
Mark your calendars! There are several events of interest to members of the class, including a campus visit by Harry Harootunian on April 9; an East Asian Connections roundtable with UW-Madison faculty on “City/State/Nation: Historians on Twentieth Century Urbanism,” scheduled for April 17, and a talk by Tani Barlow on April 27. The AAS annual meeting will be held in Chicago this year. Attendance is optional, though you are strongly encouraged to take part in these events.

Readings
Course readings are listed in the class schedule. All assigned articles will be available through the class website. The following books can be purchased at the University Bookstore.


Assigned readings are also available on reserve at two locations: (1) College Reserves in HC White Library (readings for 6 Feb); and (2) Grants Information Collection Room, 262D, in Memorial Library. This is located next to the second floor reference desk. Please return books to the shelf after you have finished as a courtesy to your fellow students.

Class Schedule
1. Constituting “Japan” as an object of study

   23 Jan.  Introduction

   30 Jan.  NO CLASS
6 Feb.  **Foundations of the Discipline**


Read: James Morley, intro to *Dilemmas of Growth*, pp. 1-33; John Hall, intro to *Changing Japanese Attitudes*, p. 7-42.

13 Feb.  **Marxist narratives of modernization**


20 Feb.  **Beyond modernization, area studies, and old fogies (or not)**

II. Active Historiography

27 Feb. Surveying Postwar Historiography in US

Journal exercise: survey the table of contents for Journal of Asian Studies, Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars, Positions 1950s through present and map out key themes and trends in postwar historiography

6 March Surveying recent Japanese historiography

Journal exercise: survey table of contents for recent issues of Rekishi hyōron and Shigaku zasshi
Identifying recent trends: identifying keywords, study groups, seminars for student topics (consult with Ayako Yoshimura)

13 March Student paper session

Read: Annotated bibliographies: present, discuss and critique. (Can revise and resubmit by 8 May.)

III. Historiography and historical problems

20 March Japan in the world/the world in Japan


Exercise: Scoping out tables of contents and introductions
- Meiji imperialism (Dudden, Duus, Conroy, Beasley, Howland, Keene, Mayo)
- Colonial state/politics/policy (Myers and Peattie volumes)
- Case studies: Manchuria, China, Southeast Asia, Korea, Taiwan, Pacific Islands
- WW1 and regional order (Duara, Iriye, Wilson, Akami, Dickenson, Dower, Burkman)
- Diplomatic history (Nish, Iriye, Dickenson)
- Cultures of imperialism (Young, Brandt, Barlow, Tanaka)
- WW2 in Asia (Duus & Peattie, Dower, Young, Cooks)
- Cold War in Asia (Dower, Cumings, Gluck, Gorden)

27 March  NO CLASS: AAS MEETINGS
(Panel on Japanese imperialism)

3 April   NO CLASS: SPRING BREAK

10 April  social history old and new

Read: Jordan Sand, *Vernacular Tokyo; Companion to Japanese History*, chapters 5, 10, 18, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 27, 29.

Exercise: master categories
- Labor history and the working class (Gordon, Large, Kawashima)
- Tenants and landlords (Walthal, Waswo, Vlastos)
- Women (Bernstein, Uno, Sato, Sand)
- Minorities (Ryang, Weiner, Kawashima)
- Margins – Okinawa, local history, Hokkaido (Dusinberre, Howell, Matsumura, Nelson)
- Rural Japan (Smith, Tamanoi, Smethurst, Dore)
- The city (Hanes, Lahusen, Hastings, Henry, Young)
- Environment (Stolz, Skabelan, Miller, Thomas, Tottman)

17 April  culture and knowledge after the cultural turn

Read: Stefan Tanaka, *New Times in Imperial Japan; Companion to Japanese History*, chapters 6, 7, 11, 26, 30

Exercise: identifying method
- Politics of religion (Thal, Ketelaar, Garon)
- Literature’s historical turn (DeNitto, Gardner, Ito, Zwicker, Silver, Abel)
- Genres of consumer culture (Yano on enka, Atkins on jazz, Fredericks on magazines, Caszyn on film, Silverberg on entertainment)
- Modernity and modanizumu (Sato, Gardner, Silverberg, Tyler)
- WW2 and the memory wars (Yoneyama, Yoshida, Hein, Igarashi, Fujiani, Field)
- New history of Taisho (Gardner, Frederick)
- The Meiji rupture (Figel, Tanaka, Howland)
- War and Ideology (Dower, Kushner, Maruyama, Fletcher, Tansman)
24 April  Configurations of capitalism


Exercise: reading for argument
- Capitalism from above and below (Johnson, Samuels)
- Capitalism from within and without (Pratt, Howell, Wigen, Metzler)
- Uneven development (Halliday, Norman, Allen, Nakamura)
- Continuities and ruptures across the wartime divide (Johnson, O’Bryan, Dower)
- Business history (Wray, Malony, Matsusaka, Alexander, Ericson)
- Thinking the economy (O’Bryan, Tsutsui, Barshay, Hein, Hoston)

1 May  state/polity/governmentality

Read: Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Modern Japan; Companion to Japanese History*, chapters 4, 8, 9, 15, 16

Exercise: the great debates
- Emperor and Emperor system (Tsurumi, Gluck, Fujitani, Ruoff, Bix, Nakamura, Large)
- Fascism debate (Reynolds, Maruyama, Duus and Okamoto, Fletcher, Gavin McCormack, George Wilson, Tansman)
- Taisho demokurashii (Japan in Crisis, Authority and the Individual, Duus, Gordon)
- State and society (Botsman, Garon, Ambaras, Fruhstuck, Kasza, Johnston, Lewis, Gordon, Gluck)
- Occupation and postwar settlement (Gluck, Dower, Gordon)
- Meiji Restoration (Walthal, Harootunian, Craig)

IV. Summary: Japan and the modern

8 May  How do we do history of the modern? Our historiographic context past, present, and future.