

Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Letters and Science

Japan's Modern Century History 455

Fall 2003
9:30-10:45 Tu/Th
B219 Van Vleck

Professor Louise Young
O.H. Th. 11-1 and by appt.
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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	<u>discussion</u> : <i>Musui's Story</i>
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 <i>Mistress</i>
September 25	<u>discussion</u> : <i>Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi</i>
September 30	social transformation of early Meiji
October 2	the Meiji constitution
October 7	imperialism
October 9	<u>discussion</u> : <i>And Then</i>

October 14	capitalism; HAND OUT MIDTERM
October 16	the countryside
October 21	urbanization; MIDTERM DUE IN CLASS
October 23	<u>discussion</u> : <i>Naomi</i>
October 28	crisis I: empire
October 30	crisis II: politics and economy
November 4	overcoming the modern
November 6	<u>discussion</u> : <i>Japan at War</i>
November 11	world war two in Asia
November 13	view: <i>Grave of the Fireflies</i>
November 12 or 13	**evening viewing of <i>Hellfire</i>
November 18	a-bomb
November 20	<u>discussion</u> : 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 <i>Godzilla</i>
December 4	Americanization
December 9	<u>discussion</u> : <i>Made in Japan and other Japanese "Business Novels"</i> ; <i>Kitchen</i>
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 Sôseki, And Then, trans. Norma Field (University of Michigan)

TANIZAKI Jun'ichirô, Naomi trans. Anthony H. Chambers (North Pt. Pr)
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)

The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi, trans. Eiichi Kyooka (Madison Books 1992)

Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan (Oxford U. Press)

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

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	9/4	<i>A Modern History of Japan</i> , 9-59
2	9/9	<i>Musui's Story</i>
3	9/16	<i>A Modern History of Japan</i> , 61-114
4	9/25	<i>The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi</i> , 239-336, 364-389.
5	10/2	** <i>Commentaries on the Constitution</i> , 1-14, 23-28, 38-71; <i>A Modern History of Japan</i> , 113-137
6	10/9	<i>And Then</i>
7	10/14	midterm examination
8	10/23	<i>Naomi</i>
9	10/30	<i>A Modern History of Japan</i> , 139-203
10	11/6	<i>Japan at War</i> , 3-144, 169-186, 203-220, 240-258
11	11/11	<i>A Modern History of Japan</i> , pp. 204-243
12	11/20	** <i>Hiroshima in History and Memory</i> , 1-10, 116-167; ** <i>The Nanjing Massacre</i> , 70-132.
13	11/25	<i>A Modern History of Japan</i> , pp. 245-309
14	12/4	<i>Kitchen</i>
15	12/9	<i>Made in Japan</i> , selections