

J. W. Dower  
5114 Humanities

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Course Description. History 454 deals with such broad problems as the transition from a traditional or largely agrarian-based society to a modern industrial state; the nature and social costs of Japanese capitalism; the expansionist thrust; and the breakdown of the state in the 1920's and 1930's. Roughly the first half of the course is devoted to discussion of the nature of late "feudal" (here 17th to early 19th centuries) society, and its legacy to Japan's modern century; the Western impact and the Restoration of 1867-1868; and the nature of the Meiji state (1868-1912). Particular attention is given thereafter to overseas expansion; the emergence of a dual economy dominated by the zaibatsu oligopolies; social diversification and its accompanying tensions and ideological cleavages; and the crisis of Japanese imperialism between World War One and the late 1930's. The Pacific War and its aftermath are not covered. Socio-economic, political, and international problems receive primary emphasis.

Classes. Tuesday and Thursday, 1 - 2:10 p.m. Additional section meetings will be scheduled, especially in conjunction with the assigned papers. Slides and movies will be utilized throughout the course. NOTE: this semester the university is offering an extensive series of modern Japanese films, with free admission. A schedule will be provided, and although this is not a course requirement, students of History 454 are urged to attend as many of these films as possible.

Examination. There is only one required--final--examination (May 22). 80% of this exam is in the form of a take-home essay, due on the day of the final. The take-home questions will be distributed early in the semester. The remaining in-class portion of the exam is in the form of identification questions: you will be required to write a paragraph identifying and indicating the historical significance of ten (out of 11 possible) items.... An optional mid-term exam will be arranged for any students who so desire. This would be non-prejudicial--that is, it would be used to raise, but not lower, the student's grade.

Papers. Two essays in the neighborhood of 10-12 typed pages are required. These are regarded as an essential part of the introduction to Japan, and to historical problems in general. Together the papers account for more than half of the course grade. Because of the independent reading required for the papers, assigned course readings are relatively light.

The first paper is due March 14; the second, May 4. A general bibliography of basic works in the field will be provided. Possible topics (and sources) are suggested separately here, but in general the first paper should deal with a subject in the Tokugawa-Meiji periods (1600 to early 20th century), while the second paper focuses on a problem between the turn of the century and 1945. Students must submit their proposed topics in writing ahead of time. There will be discussion sections organized around the papers.

Grading. Papers, 60%; final exam, 40%

Assigned Readings. (All are available in paperback, and also on reserve in Helen White Library).

- \* W. G. Beasley. THE MODERN HISTORY OF JAPAN. 2nd edition.
- \* James Crowley, ed. MODERN EAST ASIA: ESSAYS IN INTERPRETATION. Chapters on Japan only).
- \* Jon Livingston, Joe Moore & Felicia Oldfather, ed. THE JAPAN READER, Vol. 1. [IMPERIAL JAPAN, 1800-1945].
- \* J. W. Dower, ed. ORIGINS OF THE MODERN JAPANESE STATE: SELECTED WRITINGS OF E. H. NORMAN.
- \* Marlene Mayo, ed. THE EMERGENCE OF IMPERIAL JAPAN.

Recommended Reading.

- \* Takiji Kobayashi. "THE FACTORY SHIP" AND "THE ABSENTEE LANDLORD".

Calendar.

January 24	1st day of classes
February 7	1st proposed essay topic to be submitted in writing
March 14	1st essay due
March 18 - 27	Spring Recess
March 30	2nd proposed essay topic to be submitted in writing
May 2	2nd essay due
May 18	Last day of classes
May 22	Final examination: take-home essay due & in-class portion of exam given

COURSE PAPERS: POSSIBLE TOPICS & SOURCES

The two required essays are designed to enable students to do greater in-depth work in areas of their own choosing. In addition, they should help in developing greater skills in expository writing, critical analysis, and the formulation of historical problems. They are a challenge--but for many students also a genuine learning experience, and frequently a pleasure.

For most students, the general background for choosing a topic and placing it in perspective must come from the general assigned readings. Beasley is a survey text. Crowley provides interpretive chapters on successive periods in modern Japanese history by established scholars in the field. The Japan Reader, through its diverse selections, can provide a more dynamic sense of social, political, and economic tensions and problems between 1800 and 1945. The introduction to Origins of the Modern Japanese State suggests some of the controversies and historiographic problems in Western scholarship on Japan, while the pioneer writings of E. H. Norman in this same work provide an interpretive background against which more recent scholarship can be profitably evaluated. It is assumed that the two essays will reflect familiarity with the pertinent portions of these general readings.

The essays should be analytical--not merely summations or précis. In general, each should draw upon the writings of several authors, although there may be exceptions to this (a study of a particular literary figure; an analysis of an especially large and difficult monograph; etc.). Both format and subject matter are relatively open. An essay might be structured as a comparative review of several related books or articles, for example, or as a concise analysis of a particular problem. As a general rule, however, the first essay should focus on the period prior to the early twentieth century, while the second addresses a twentieth-century problem.

The list of possible topics and sources which follows is merely suggestive: it highlights some of the major problem areas and writings in the field. One would not necessarily have to read all of the suggested readings under a given heading--nor need one stay within the readings suggested for a particular topic here. In addition, there are innumerable other possible topics: women in prewar Japan; capital accumulation; agriculture and economic development; specific domestic incidents and specific crises in the course of Japan's imperialist expansion; aspects of Japanese literature which reflect on society and the individual; etc.

As a general guide, students will be provided with a fairly extensive working bibliography prepared for this course in 1977 ("Early Modern and Modern Japan: A Bibliography"). This itself should suggest other possible topics. The citations which follow below are cross-referenced to this bibliography (B-19, for example, refers to page 19 of the bibliography). Sources without this key are generally very recent works which do not appear in the bibliography.

## THE NATURE OF TOKUGAWA SOCIETY

- E. H. Norman, "People Under Feudalism," Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars, 9.2 (April-June 1977).
- Norman, Ando Shoeki. [B-8]
- John W. Hall in Ward & Mintow. [B-3]
- Hall & Jansen, Studies. [B-3]
- Conrad Totman, "Tokugawa Japan," in Tiedemann, An Introduction. [B-2]
- Reischauer, Japan. [B-1]
- Borton, Peasant Uprisings. [B-3]

## PRE-MEIJII ECONOMIC GROWTH

- On B-5, see especially the writings of Crawcour, Hanley & Yamamura, Smith (1948 and 1969), Sheldon, and Hauser.
- Roberts, Mitsui (early chapters). [B-16]

## PRE-MEIJII INTELLECTUAL TRENDS

- Kim for a useful short summary. [B-7]
- Maruyama, Studies, for a classic analysis and critique. [B-7]
- Najita for recent revisionist interpretations (especially review of Maruyama and early chapters of Japan). [B-7]
- Harootunian, Toward Restoration (esp. preface & conclusion). [B-7]

## TOKUGAWA POPULAR CULTURE

- Hibbett, Floating World. [B-4]
- Donald Keene, World Within Walls (on Tokugawa literature).
- Faubion Bowers, Japanese Theater (1959).
- Earle Ernst, The Kabuki Theatre (1956).
- Richard Lane, Masters of the Japanese Print: Their World and Their Work (1962).
- DeBecker, Nightless City. [B-4]
- Ihara Saikaku (1642-1693): The Eternal Storehouse of Japan  
The Life of an Amorous Woman  
Five Women Who Loved Love
- Chikamatsu Monzaemon (1653-1724), The Major Plays of Chikamatsu.
- Jippensha Ikku (1766-1831), Shank's Mare.

## THE TOKUGAWA BAKUFU

- Totman on central government [B-3]
- Bolitho on fudai daimyo [B-3]
- Taukahira on sankin kotai [B-3]

## THE NATURE OF THE MEIJII RESTORATION

Compare the classic account of E. H. Norman and more recent interpretations on B-9:

- Craig, Choshu.
- Jansen, Sakamoto.
- Sakata & Hall, "Motivation."
- Beasley, Meiji Restoration (especially introductory chapters).
- Harootunian review of Beasley.

## THE MEIJII STATE: HOW "ENLIGHTENED," HOW "AUTOCRATIC"?

Develop the differing interpretations in the assigned reading (Norman, Jansen in Crowley, selections in Livingston) further through such studies as:

- Joseph Pittau, "The Meiji Political System: Different Interpretations," in Joseph Roggenhoff, ed. Studies in Japanese Culture
- Norman, Soldier and Peasant. [B-19]
- Ike, Beginnings. [B-11]
- Halliday, Political History, Chapter 1. [B-11]
- Beasley, Meiji Restoration. [B-9]
- Akita, Foundations. [B-11]

## THE MEIJII STATE THROUGH JAPANESE EYES

- Okuma, Fifty Years. [B-11]
- Stead, Japan by the Japanese. [B-11]
- Center for East Asian Cultural Studies, Meiji Japan. [B-11]
- McLaren, "Japanese Government Documents." [B-11]
- Hirobumi Ito, Commentaries on the Constitution of the Empire of Japan (tr. Miyoji Ito), 2nd edition (1906).

## THE MEIJI OLIGARCHS

- Iwata, Okubo Toshimichi. [B-11]
- Hackett, Yamagata Aritomo. [B-11]
- Lebra, Okuma Shigenobu [B-11]
- selections in Craig & Shively, Personality. [B-36]

## "CIVILIZATION &amp; ENLIGHTENMENT" IN EARLY MEIJI

- Sansom, Western World. [B-13]
- Blacker, The Japanese Enlightenment. [B-13]
- Fukuzawa Yukichi (1835-1901): Autobiography  
An Outline Theory of Civilization  
An Encouragement of Learning

[Note: Fukuzawa alone is an appropriate subject for a paper. See other entries in B-13]

- Braisted, Meiroku Zasshi. [B-13]
- Kosaka, Japanese Thought. [B-14]

## CULTURAL CRISIS IN MID &amp; LATE MEIJI

- Pyle, The New Generation. [B-13]
- Earl Kinmonth, "The Self-Made Man in Meiji Japanese Thought" (1975: Ph.D. dissertation, U. Wisconsin, Madison).
- Hall, Mori Arinori. [B-13]
- Shively, "Motoda Eifu," [B-13]
- Notehelper, Kotoku Shusui. [B-14]

## MEIJI INDUSTRIALIZATION

- Lockwood, Economic Development. [B-15]
- Rosovsky, Capital Formation. [B-15]
- Rosovsky, "Japan's Transition." [B-15]
- Tsuru, Essays (Chapter 7). [B-15]
- Nakamura, Agricultural Production. [B-17]

## MEIJI ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Hirschmeier, Origins of Entrepreneurship. [B-15]
- Harvard, Business History Review, 1970. [B-15]
- Roberts, Mitsui. [B-16]
- Russell, House of Mitsui. [B-16]

## MEIJI EXPANSION

- Jansen in Ward & also in Feuerwerker. [B-29]
- Jansen, The Japanese and Sun Yat-sen. [B-29]
- Keene in Shively. [B-30]
- Hackett, Yamagata Aritomo. [B-30]

## "REALISM" AND "IDEALISM" IN LATE MEIJI FOREIGN POLICY

- Okamoto, The Japanese Oligarchy and the Russo-Japanese War. [B-30]
- Conroy, The Japanese Seizure of Korea. [B-30]

## SOCIETY &amp; THE INDIVIDUAL

- Benedict, The Chrysanthemum and the Sword. [B-7]
- Tsurumi, Social Change and the Individual. [B-36]

## SOCIETY &amp; THE INDIVIDUAL AS SEEN THROUGH LITERATURE

An excellent subject, with many good translations available. See especially the following (names are in Japanese order):

- Tokutomi Kenjiro, Footprints in the Snow
- Shimazaki Toson, The Broken Commandment
- Futabatei Shimei, The Floating Cloud
- Mori Ogai, The Wild Geese  
Vita Sexualis  
"Delusion," in Monumenta Nipponica 25.3-4 (1970), 415-430.
- Natsume Soseki, Botchan  
I Am a Cat  
Kokoro  
The Wayfarer  
Mon  
Light and Darkness  
Grass on the Wayside  
The Three-Cornered World  
Ten Nights of Dream
- Tanizaki Junichiro, The Makioka Sisters  
Some Prefer Nettles  
Diary of a Mad Old Man  
Seven Japanese Tales
- Kawabata Yasunari, Snow Country  
Thousand Cranes  
The Sound of the Mountain  
The Master of Go  
Beauty and Sadness  
The House of the Sleeping Beauties
- Nagai Kafu, Geisha in Rivalry  
Edward Seidensticker, Kafu the Scribbler.

## "TAISHO DEMOCRACY"

- Silberman & Harootunian, Japan in Crisis. [B-25]
- Matsuo, "Development of Democracy." [B-25]
- Scalapino, Democracy and the Party Movement. [B-25]
- Daus, Party Rivalry. [B-25]

## SOCIAL COSTS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION

- Hugh Patrick, ed. Japanese Industrialization and Its Social Costs. 1976
- Shuichi Harada. Labor Conditions in Japan. 1928
- Sumiya, Social Impact of Industrialization. [B-18]

## CAPITALISM, NATIONALISM &amp; IMPERIALISM

- Marshall, Capitalism and Nationalism. [B-16]
- Tiedemann, "Big Business," in Morley. [B-15]
- Roberts, Mitsui. [B-16]
- Hadley, Anti-trust in Japan, pp. 20-60. [B-16]
- The Edwards Report, esp. Introduction and pp. 1-93. [B-16]
- Halliday, Political History. [B-16]

## THE RURAL CRISIS

- Fukutake, Japanese Rural Society. [B-19]
- Dore, Land Reform in Japan, pp. 1-125. [B-20]
- Moore, Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, pp. 228-313. [B-19]
- Dore & Ouchi in Morley, Dilemmas of Growth, pp. 181-209 (a critique of Barrington Moore's thesis). [B-20]

## MILITARISM &amp; THE RURAL COMMUNITY

- Smethurst, A Social Basis for Japanese Militarism. [B-23]
- Havens, Farm and Nation in Japan. [B-23]
- Smith review of Smethurst and Havens. [B-23]
- Moore, Social Origins. [B-19]
- Dore & Ouchi in Morley, Dilemmas of Growth. [B-20]
- Dore, Land Reform in Japan, pp. 87-125. [B-20]

## "FASCISM"

- Maruyama, Thought and Behavior, chapters 1-4. [B-26]
- Tanin & Yohan, Militarism and Fascism in Japan (a 1934 Soviet analysis, with introduction by Karl Radek in which Radek takes issue with the authors' theoretical framework). [B-26]
- Moore, Social Origins, pp. 228-313. [B-26]
- Dore & Ouchi, "Rural Origins of Japanese Fascism," in Morley, Dilemmas of Growth, pp. 181-209 (critique of Moore). [B-20]
- Wilson, "A New Look at the Problem of 'Japanese Fascism'." [B-23]

## COMMUNISM IN PREWAR JAPAN

- Beckmann & Okubo, Japanese Communist Party (the best single study, with JCP theses given in appendix). [B-28]
- Beckmann articles in Morley and in Asian Cultural Studies. [B-28]
- Central Committee, The Fifty Years (the official JCP history). [B-28]

## RIGHTWING RADICALISM

- Wilson, Radical Nationalist. [B-23]
- Wilson, Crisis Politics in Prewar Japan. [B-26]
- Shillony, Revolt in Japan. [B-26]
- Mark Peattie, Ishiwara Kanji and Japan's Confrontation with the West. 1975.

## "TANAKA DIPLOMACY" &amp; "SHIDEHARA DIPLOMACY" (= late 1920's)

- Iriye, After Imperialism. [B-32]
- Bamba, Japanese Diplomacy in a Dilemma. [B-32]

## THE EMPEROR &amp; JAPANESE AGGRESSION

- Bergamini, Japan's Imperial Conspiracy. [B-35]
- Sheldon, "Japanese Aggression and the Emperor" (a purported refutation of Bergamini's controversial book, which includes citations to other reviews critical of Bergamini). [B-35]
- Titus, Palace and Politics. [B-26]

## "JAPAN'S CASE" &amp; "CHINA'S CASE" IN THE 1930's

- An excellent subject, permitting use of primary or quasi-primary materials. See especially the League of Nations documents in B-33.

## THE CHINA WAR

- See works by Boyle, Bunker, Id, and Johnson in B-34.

## THE CO-PROSPERITY SPHERE

- Lebra, Japan's Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. [B-35]
- Lebra, Japanese-Trained Armies in Southeast Asia. [B-35]
- Boyle, China and Japan at War. [B-34]

## THE U.S. &amp; JAPAN, 1931 - 1941

- Borg & Okamoto, Pearl Harbor As History (this massive collection of essays could in itself serve as the basis for a paper). [B-34]

## THE ROAD TO PEARL HARBOR

- Butow, Tojo and the Coming of the War. [B-34]
- Feis, The Road to Pearl Harbor. [B-34]
- Ike, Japan's Decision for War (translation of the fascinating top-level Japanese government conferences in 1941). [B-33]
- Chomsky, "Revolutionary Pacifism." [B-35]