

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

Japanese Urbanism
History 600: Advanced Seminar in History (011)

Fall 2011
Wednesday 1:20-3:20
5245 Humanities

Professor Louise Young
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Course description

Japan is one of the most urbanized societies in the world today, with an estimated 80% of the population living in urban areas. With almost 35 million people, Tokyo is the largest city on the planet. This course traces the historical roots of Japan's astonishing urbanization from the ancient capitals of Nara and Heian (present day Kyoto), through the era of the feudal castle town, concentrating particularly on the transformation of urban form in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will critically examine "the city" as a constellation of ideas as well as the institutions that create the material contours of urban life.

The course is organized as a reading and writing intensive seminar, designed to give students a working knowledge of the literature and debates in urban history as well as an in depth look at Japanese cities. The course also aims to develop historical skills including effective writing, historical argumentation, and public presentation. To achieve this dual purpose, approximately the first 30 minutes of each class period will be devoted to a "skills session" with the remainder of the time focusing on discussion of the weekly readings.

The history department reserves the right to collect information, including copies of final papers, for the purposes of assessing and improving this course and the major.

Requirements

Deadlines for reading and writing assignments are listed in the class schedule. Late writing assignments will be downgraded one letter grade for each day late (e.g. A to AB, B to BC).

- read weekly assignments and participate actively in class discussion (40%)
- paper proposal and bibliography (5%)
- argument outline and keywords (5%)
- 20 page final paper, including rough drafts (40%)
- participate in student conference (10%)

Historical Research Workshop

In addition, you are required to attend a workshop designed for History 600 students. There are four sessions to choose from, scheduled on September 20, 22, 26, and 28. All will be held at Memorial Library from 6-7:30 PM. Students must register through an online registration system using the link pasted below:

http://www.ohrd.wisc.edu/reg/catalog_course.aspx?groupcoursekey=31638

Readings

The following required readings have been ordered for purchase at the University Book Store:

- William Gardner, *Advertising Tower: Japanese Modernism and Modernity in the 1920s* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2006)
- Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan* (UC Press, 2001)
- Jeffrey Hanes, *The City as Subject: Seki Hajime and the Reinvention of Modern Osaka* (UC Press, 2002)
- Thomas R. H. Havens, *Valley of Darkness: The Japanese People and World War Two* (University Press of America, 1986)
- Oda Sakunosuke, *Stories of Osaka Life*, trans. Burton Watson (Columbia University Press, 1990)
- Edward Seidensticker, *High City, Low City: Tokyo from Edo to the Earthquake: how the ancient capital became a great modern city, 1867-1923*
- Junichiro Tanizaki, *Some Prefer Nettles* (Vintage, 1995)

All other readings are available on the class website at Learn@UW.

Class schedule

September 7 *introduction*

September 14 *foundations of the urban form*

Read: Ivan Morris, *The World of the Shining Prince: Court Life in Ancient Japan*, 1-40; John W. Hall, "Kyoto as Historical background," in John W. Hall and Jeffrey P. Mass, eds., *Medieval Japan: Essays in Institutional History*, 3-38; James L. McClain & Osamu Wakita, *Osaka: the Merchants Capital of Early Modern Japan*, 1-21, 261-271.

Skills Session: The Research Question (1)

- Choosing a topic of interest
- Narrowing for a 20 page paper
- Thinking about sources

September 21 *the castle town in the feudal age*

Read: James L. McClain, *Kanazawa*, all.

Skills Session: The Research Question (2)

****assignment**** bring in a topic to present to class

September 28 *cities in the nineteenth century transition*

Read: Henry D. Smith, "Edo-Tokyo Transition," in Marius B. Jansen and Gilbert Rozman, eds., *Japan in Transition from Tokugawa to Meiji*, 347-376; Andre Sorensen, *The Making of Urban Japan; Cities and Planning from Edo to the twenty-first century*, 11-84; Jilly Traganou, "Representing Mobility in Tokugawa and Meiji Japan," in Nicolas Fieve and Paul Waley, eds., *Japanese Capitals in Comparative Perspective: Place, Power and Memory in Kyoto, Edo and Tokyo*, 172-207.

Skills Session: the Research Question (3)

- Identifying your historical problem
- Do your primary and secondary sources address your historical problem?

October 5

imperial capital; capital of the Empire

Read: Edward Seidensticker, *High City; Low City*, 3-89; Henry Smith, "Tokyo as an Idea," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 4.1 (Winter 1978), 45-80.

Skills session: The Research Question (4): peer review

****assignment**** paper proposal and bibliography due (bring two copies to class). The proposal should include a title and a brief paragraph describing your topic and the historical problem you will be addressing. A bibliography of 5-10 primary and secondary sources should be included.

Guidelines for peer review:

- Summarize your understanding of the proposal
- What is the most interesting point/ aspect?
- What needs more explanation?
- Which looks like the best/most relevant source?
- Which looks like the source least related to the research question?

October 12 *the modern project of the city*

Read: Jeffrey Hanes, *The City as Subject: Seki Hajime and the Reinvention of Modern Osaka*, 1-52, 169-268.

Skills session: Developing an Argument (1)

- Researching with outlines
- The difference between topic outlines (for research) and argument outlines (for writing)
- Developing keywords

October 19

metropolitan culture

Read: William Gardner, *Advertising Tower*, 1-45, 118-168; James A. Fujii, "Intimate Alienation: Japanese Urban Rail and the Commodification of Urban Subjects," *differences: a Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 11.2 (1999), 106-133.

Skills session: Developing an Argument (2)

- Argument outlines
- Working with primary and secondary sources: evidence-based argument
- Telling a story: blending argument and narrative

October 26

the new urban politics

Read: Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan*, selections.

Skills session: Developing an Argument (3): peer review

****assignment****argument outline and keyword(s) due. The *argument outline* should fit on a single page and include the paper thesis. In addition, provide a brief definition of one of your keywords from the paper title. The *keyword* is a category or concept that is centrally tied to the historical problem your paper explores. Your paper should develop and illuminate the keyword. For example, a keyword for a paper on "Urban Disasters in Modern Times: The Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923" is "disaster."

November 2

provincial cities

Read: Louise Young, *Beyond the Metropolis*, 1-16, 263-345, 417-490. (introduction, Chapters 5 and 7)

Skills session: Tools for Peer Review (1)

November 9

NO CLASS. PEER PAPER SWAP (1)

For this exercise you will be paired with another student from the class to swap rough drafts and give your partner critical and constructive feedback. Constructive feedback involves: reading

the draft through; writing up a set of brief comments; meeting to explain and elaborate your comments.

****assignment**** rough draft of first ten pages of paper. Please provide Professor Young with copies of both your rough draft and comments on your partner's paper.

November 16 *elegies of urban change; celebrating the modern city*
Read: Junichiro Tanizaki, *Some Prefer Nettles*, all.

Skills session: Effective Revision (1)

- Reverse outlines

November 23 *cities at war*
Read: Thomas Havens, *Valley of Darkness*, selections

Skills session: Effective Revision (2)

- the “take home message”
- introduction and conclusion

November 30 *Osaka as social imaginary*
Read: Oda Sakunosuke, *Stories of Osaka Life*, all.

Skills session: Effective Presentations (1)

****assignment**** rough draft of paper due. Set up second peer paper swap; appointments with Professor Young

December 7 Student Conference I

December 14 Student Conference II
****final papers due in class****