

University of Wisconsin-Madison  
Department of History

History 855:  
**Historiography of Modern Japan**  
Spring 2007

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Friday 3-5  
5245 Humanities

**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. In particular we will look at the dominance of the paradigm of modernization. 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. The choice of categories depends on student interest. The syllabus will be finalized from the list of possible topics below. Japanese language ability is not required, though special assignments may be made for students with advanced reading ability and interest in exploring Japanese language historiography.

**Course Requirements**

1. One page posting reflecting on the week's readings. Due 5:00 p.m. the day before class meets.
2. One bibliography covering work published since 1945 on a single topic or category (e.g. empire, fascism, gender). The bibliography should be organized thematically and highlight historiographic trends as well as questions of method. Students will present their conclusions orally as brief in-class presentations and in writing as annotated bibliographies.
3. One syllabus for an undergraduate course
4. One ten-page historiographic essay.

**Class Schedule**

**I. Constituting "Japan": Modernization and its Discontents**

26 Jan. Introduction

2 Feb. Anti-Marxist/Marxist narratives of modernization

Look over six Princeton volumes: Marius B. Jansen, *Changing Japanese Attitudes toward Modernization*; Robert Ward, *Political Development in Modern Japan*; R. P. Dore, *Aspects of Social Change in Modern Japan*; William Lockwood, *The State and Economic Enterprise in Japan*; Donald Shively, *Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture*; James Morley, *Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan*.

Read: James Morley, intro to *Dilemmas of Growth*, pp. 1-33; John Hall intro to *Changing Japanese Attitudes*, p. 7-42; E. H. Norman, *Japan's Emergence as a Modern State*, "introduction" pp. 3-10, "The Restoration" pp. 49-103, "The Agrarian Settlement and its Social Consequences" pp. 136-166; Nakamura Masanori, "The Emperor System of the 1900s", *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 1984; Germaine Hoston, "Conceptualizing Bourgeois Revolution", *Comparative Studies of Society and History* 33.3, July 1991.

9 Feb. Critiques of Area Studies/ History beyond Marxism

Read: John Dower, "E.H. Norman, Japan, and the Uses of History", in Dower, ed., *Origins of the Modern Japanese State: Selected Writings of E.H. Norman*, p. 3-102; Harry Harootunian, "Tracking in Dinosaur: Area Studies in a Time of 'Globalism'", in Harootunian, *History's Disquiet: Modernity, Cultural Practice, and the Question of Everyday Life*, pp. 25-58; Carol Gluck, "House of Mirrors: American History-Writing on Japan," in *Imagined Histories*, pp. 434-454; Carol Gluck, "The People in History," *Journal of Asian Studies*, Nov 1978, 25-50; Carol Gluck, "Meta-Musings on Historywriting in Japan at the End of the Millennium", 1995 (xerox)

16 Feb. The Staying Power of Modernization

Look over: Four Routledge volumes edited by Stephen large, *Sowa Japan* (1998)

Journal exercise: survey the table of contents for *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, *Positions* 1950s through present

## II. Historiography and historical problems

We have 11 sessions to allocate here and what we read depends on your interest. I have noted down major works under each category; we need not read all of them. We can also do as many or few sessions on a single category as you would like. Look over the list and we can finalize the syllabus at our introductory meeting.

1. **class:**

- middle class/intelligentsia [Donald Roden, Earl Kinmonth, Sheldon Garon, David Ambaras, *Bad Youth*, Jordan Sand]
- working class/ labor movement [Andrew Gordon, Joe Moore]
- tenants and landlords [Ann Waswo, Richard Smethurst, Ronald Dore]

2. **empire**

- colonial state/forms of dominance [3 Myers and Peattie volumes on Japanese colonial empire]
- cultures of empire and colonial/subaltern subjectivities [Louise Young, Stephan Tanaka, Leo Ching, special issue of *Positions*, Barlow, *Formations of Colonial Modernity*, Narangua and Cribb, *Imperial Japan and National Identities in Asia*]
- case studies--Southeast Asia, China, Korea, Taiwan [Mendl, *Japan and Southeast Asia*]

3. **capitalism**

- from within/without [Edward Pratt, David Howell, Karin Wigen, Mark Metzler]
- from above/below [Chalmers Johnson, William Wray, Eric Erickson, William Tsutsui, Richard Samuels]
- uneven development [Jon Haliday, EH Norman, Allen, Nakamura, *Economic History of Japan*, v. 3]

4. **“postwar”**

- as history [Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Andrew Gordon, Carol Gluck, John Dower]
- memory wars [Yoshikuni Igarashi, John Treat, Lisa Yonemoto, Takashi Yoshida, Laura Hein and Mark Selden on bomb and censorship, Fujitani et al, *Perilous Memories*, Bartov et al, *Crimes of War: War and Guilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*]
- occupation/ cold war [John Dower and others]
- subjectivity debate [Ricki Kiersten, Victor Koschman]

5. **identity/subjectivity**

- gender/sexuality [Gregory Pflugfelder, Kathy Uno, *Positions*, selections, Gail Bernstein, Ayako Kano, Barbara Sato, Miriam Silverberg, Vera Mackie on socialit women, Tamanoi on rural women, Malong and Uno, *Gender and Modern Japanese History*]
- minorities [George DeVos, Sonya Ryang, Michael Weiner, Dru Gladney]
- nationalism [classics, Shimazu, *Nationalisms in Japan*, Doak and Chow, *Constructing Nationhood in Modern East Asia*, Hanes and Yamaji, *Image and Identity*, Shirane and Suzuki, *Inventing the Classics*, Hijjiya-Kirschnerest, *Canon and Identity*, Slegewerns, *Nationalism and Internationalism in Imperial Japan*]

## 6. *tennosei*

- imperial biography [Herbert Bix, Harootunian review of Bix, Nakamura Masanori, David Bergamini, Stephen Large, Ken Ruoff]
- ideology and thought control [Carol Gluck, Tak Fujitani, Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, Tsurumi Kazuko, Barak Krushner, *The Thought War*]

## 7. **internal peripheries**

- the local [Michael Lewis, Karen Wigen, Young, *Tsugaru: Regional Identity on Japan's Northern Periphery*]
- Okinawa [special issue *Critical Asian Studies*, Michael Molasky, Alan Christy in Barlow ed, Hook and Siddle, *Japan and Okinawa, Japan's Minorities: The Illusion of Homogeneity*, Lie, *Multicultural Japan*]

## 8. **state/polity**

- fascism debate [Maruyama Masao, Duus and Okamoto, Miles Fletcher, Gavin McCormack, George Wilson, Tansman, new ms from Duke, Bruce Reynolds, *Japan in the Fascist Era*]
- Taisho democracy [*Japan in Crisis, Autonomy and the Individual*]
- state-society [Carol Gluck, Sheldon Garon, Ambaras, *Bad Youth*]
- Meiji Restoration [Harry Harootunian, E.H. Norman, Albert Craig, William Beaseley]
- Postwar politics [Dower, in *Postwar Japan as History*, *Shadow Shoguns*, Kiersten, *The Left in the Shaping of Japanese Democracy*]

## 9. **culture/knowledge**

- Mass/popular culture (Christine Yano, Taylor Atkins, Eric Cazyn, Kelly, *Fanning the Flames, fans and consumer culture*, Andrew Bernstein, *Modernization of Death Ritual*)
- Literati, high culture, the academy (Douglas Howland, Andrew Barshay, Laura Hein, Harry Harootunian, Germaine Hosten, Margaret Mehl)
- Modernism (Michael Bourdaghs, Seiji Lippett, Gennifer Weisenfeld, Harry Harootunian, William Gardner)

## 10. **city/country**

- Cities (Jeffrey Hanes, James McClain, Edward Seidensticker, Edo/Tokyo volume, Sally Hastings)
- The rural (Ann Waswo, Anne Walthal, Kerry Smith, Stephen Vlastos, Waswo and Nishida, *Farmers and Village Life*)