

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History

History 855:
Historiography of Modern Japan
Spring 2015

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Friday 3:30-5:30
5257 Humanities
1-3 credits

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.

- John W. Dower and Timothy S. George, *Japanese History & Culture from Ancient to Modern Times: Seven Basic Bibliographies* (Marcus Weiner, 1995)
- William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009)
- Tani Barlow, ed., *Formations of Colonial Modernity in East Asia* (Duke, 1997)
- William M. Tsutsui, *Manufacturing Ideology: Scientific Management in Twentieth-century Japan* (Princeton, 2001)
- Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy* (University of California Press, 1992)
- Jordan Sand, *Tokyo Vernacular: Common Spaces, Local Histories, Found Objects* (University of California Press, 2013)
- Stefan Tanaka, *New Times in Modern Japan* (Princeton, 2004)

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

I. Constituting “Japan” as an object of study

23 Jan. Introduction

30 Jan. NO CLASS

6 Feb. Foundations of the Discipline

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*. **NB: on reserve at College Library**

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

Read: 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* 16.2, 1984, pp.2-10; Germaine Hoston, "Conceptualizing Bourgeois Revolution", *Comparative Studies of Society and History* 33.3, July 1991; Germaine Hoston, *Marxism and the Crisis of Development in Prewar Japan*, 35-54, 251-292.

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

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*, pp. 3-102; H.D. Harootunian, "Postcoloniality's unconscious/area studies' desire," *Postcolonial Studies*, Vol 2, No.2, pp 127-147, 1999; 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, "The 'End' of the Postwar: Japan at the Turn of the Millennium", *Public Culture* 10 (1) 1-23; Rob Wilson, "Imagining 'Asia-Pacific' Today: Forgetting Colonialism in the Magical Waters of the Pacific," in *Reimagining the American Pacific*; William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History*, introduction; Carol Gluck, in *The New American Empire*, ed., Marilyn Young.

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

Book series exercise: compare two multi-volume sets *Iwanami kōza*, *Nihon rekishi*, 26 vols. (1975-77) and *Iwanami kōza*, *Nihon tsūshi*, 26 vols. (1993-96)

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

Read: Tani Barlow, ed., *Formations of Colonial Modernity in East Asia*, selections; William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History*, chaps 12, 13, 14, 19 and 23; Asada Sadao, *Japan and the World 1853-1952: A Bibliographic Guide to Japanese Scholarship* (1989), selections; May and Thomson, eds., *American-East Asian Relations: A Survey*, selections.

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

Read: William Tsutsui, *Manufacturing Ideology; Companion to Japanese History*, chapters 17, 28. William Wray, *Japan's Economy: A Bibliography of its Past and Present*, skim.

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, Fruhstick, 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.

Read: AHR Roundtable "Historians and the Question of Modernity", AHR, No 116 (3), 2011, pp 631-751.