

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of History

History 855
Graduate Seminar
Historiography of Modern Japan
Fall 2020

Louise Young
Office Hours: by appt
louiseyoung@wisc.edu

Friday 3:45-5:40
Face-to-face only
Curti Lounge
1-3 credits

COVID-19 in person instruction

Individuals are expected to wear a face covering while inside any university building. Face coverings must be worn correctly (i.e., covering both your mouth and nose) in the building if you are attending class in person. If any student is unable to wear a face-covering, an accommodation may be provided due to disability, medical condition, or other legitimate reason. The History Department has directed instructors to halt the class and, if necessary, leave the classroom if anyone in the room is not wearing a properly fitted mask.

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. 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 required, though special assignments may be made for students with advanced reading ability and interest in exploring Japanese language historiography.

Learning Outcomes

- Learn how to prepare a preliminary examination reading list for Japanese history and organize around interpretive themes.
- Acquire a basic understanding of the major debates and scholarly trends in Japanese history-writing
- Master several approaches to historiographic analysis
- Develop tools to create an undergraduate survey course in modern Japanese history and to guide undergraduate student research on Japan.

Course Requirements

1. **Weekly response essays.** Each week by 9:00 am the day our class meets, all students should submit a post to the canvas website. This will take the form of a short response essay to the readings; a bibliographic exercise; or some other assignment.
2. **Annotated bibliography** on your (Japan related) MA/Phd topic or a Japanese history teaching field, due 23 October on course website (with hard copy for instructor). Think of this as prep work for a Japan preliminary examination field. 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.
⇒ <https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/annotatedbibliography/>
3. **Syllabus** for an undergraduate course **OR**
4. **Ten-page historiographic essay**, first draft due 20 Nov; final draft due 11 Dec. 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.
5. **How to budget your study time.** Credit hours are calculated based on the “Traditional Carnegie Definition”: each credit represents three hours of combined direct instruction and outside preparation each week for 15 weeks. Plan on spending 4-8 hours prepping for this class each week. 2-4 hours to read and skim; 1-2 hours for on line research; 1-2 hours to prepare weekly post.

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 and 50% of weekly posts.
- To earn 2 credits, in addition to the above requirements students must submit posts to canvas every week as well as completing the annotated bibliography.
- For the full 3 credits, students must complete the assignments listed above as well as the syllabus/historiographic essay.

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)
- Andrew Gordon, *Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan* (University of California Press, 1992)
- Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire* (University of California Press, 1998)
- Norma Field, *In the Realm of a Dying Emperor* (Vintage, 1993)
- Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, selections; *Companion to Japanese History* (Stanford U Press, 1982)

Most assigned readings are also available on the canvas website.

Class Schedule

I. Constituting “Japan” as an object of study

4 Sept. Foundations of the Discipline

Look over six Princeton volumes (all available online via the UW library system): 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.

11 Sept. 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.

18 Sept. 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, "Tracking the Dinosaur", in *History's Disquiet*, 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, "The 'End' of the Postwar: Japan at the Turn of the Millennium", *Public Culture* 10 (1) 1-23; William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History*, 1-10.

II. Active Historiography

25 Sept. Changing Presents

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

2 Oct. Changing Mainstories

Book series exercise: compare tables of contents for two multi-volume sets *Iwanami kōza, Nihon rekishi*, 26 vols. (1975-77) and *Iwanami kōza, Nihon tsūshi*, 26 vols. (1993-96). Compare two multi-volume sets *Cambridge History of Japan*; Stephen S. Large, ed., *Shōwa Japan*, 4 vols. (Routledge, 1998); Sven Saaler and Christopher Szpilman, eds., *Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese History* (2018); John W. Hall, et al., *The Cambridge History of Japan*, 6 vols (1988-1993); table of contents for forthcoming edition of *The Cambridge History of Japan*.

9 Oct. **NO CLASS**

III. Historiography and historical problems

16 Oct. Japan in the world/the world in Japan

Read: Louise Young, *Japan's Total Empire*, selections; William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History*, pp. 207-262; Asada Sadao, *Japan and the World 1853-1952: A Bibliographic Guide to Japanese Scholarship* (1989), pp. 70-101, 217-235, 355-375.

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, Sheriff, Masuda)

23 Oct. Writing Workshop I: annotated bibliographies

30 Oct social history old and new

Read: Andrew Gordon, *Imperial Democracy*, selections; William M. Tsutsui, ed., *A Companion to Japanese History*, pp. 156-188, 371-388, 424-459.

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)

6 Nov. Configurations of capitalism

Read: Chalmers Johnson, *MITI and the Japanese Miracle*, selections; *Companion to Japanese History*, 299-314, 493-510; William Wray, *Japan's Economy: A Bibliography of its Past and Present*, skim (Memorial Library Reference Stacks: HC 462/W7/1989).

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, Hein)
- Business history (Wray, Malony, Matsusaka, Alexander, Ericson)
- Thinking the economy (O'Bryan, Tsutsui, Barshay, Hein, Hoston)

13 Nov. intellectual and cultural history

Read: Norma Field, *In the Realm of a Dying Emperor*, 33-106, 177-266; William Tsutsui, *Companion to Japanese History*, pp. 189-206, 460-476, 511-544.

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)

20 Nov Writing Workshop II: paper/syllabus drafts

4 Dec Summary Session: comparing Japan and China in modernity

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

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, Fruhstuck, Kasza, Johnston, Lewis, Gordon, Gluck)
- Occupation and postwar settlement (Gluck, Dower, Gordon)
- Meiji Restoration (Walthal, Harootunian, Craig)