

JAPAN SINCE THE MEIJI RESTORATION

History 278
Spring 2009

Andrew C. Hsieh
201 Mears, x3093
Office Hours:
Wednesdays, 10:00-noon

This is a survey course on Modern Japanese history. It has no pre-requisites and assumes no prior knowledge of Japanese history. It will meet two times a week and will generally follow this pattern:

Tuesdays: Lecture; Thursdays: Discussion of the week's assigned readings.

Requirements include:

Writing a one-paragraph comment on the assigned reading. Do so for weeks 2, 3, 12, and 13. These one-paragraph comments are due in class on Thursdays.

Preparing DI sheets, which are due in class on Thursdays. Do so for weeks 5, 6, 9, and 10.

Each DI (which stands for Discussion initiation) sheet is to be TYPEWRITTEN on one 8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper and should contain the following:

- The student's name;
- The date;
- The student's title for the week's discussion;
- The student's choice of one quotation from the week's assigned reading;
- The student's formulation of ONE question for the week's discussion.

Each DI sheet is due in class on Thursday of the week for which the readings are assigned. Late DI sheets will not be accepted.

Completing two special writing assignments.

Participating in discussions in class on Thursdays;

Each student's grade will be based on the performance of three kinds of assignments with roughly equal weight given to each:

- 35% on comments and the DI sheets,
- 35% on the two special writing assignments, and
- 30% on attendance class participations

SESSIONS

1. T Jan. 20: Some Enduring Structures in Japanese History

TH Jan. 22
Reading: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, from Tokugawa Times to the Present, (Oxford University Press, 2003). Pp. xi-xiv; 1-19.
2. T Jan 27: Tokugawa Legacies

TH Jan 29
Reading: Haru M. Reischauer, Samurai and Silk: A Japanese and American Heritage, (Harvard University Press, 1988), pp. 21-41; 155-169; “A Samurai Boyhood;” “A Peasant Background,” Modern History of Japan, pp. 21-45.
3. T Feb 3: Crises and in Late Tokugawa and the Meiji Restoration

TH Feb 5
Reading: Modern History of Japan, pp. 46-76; Samurai and Silk, pp. 42-63; 170-189
4. T Feb 10: Protest, Dissent, and the Birth of the first Constitution

TH Feb 12
Reading: Modern History of Japan, pp.77-113; Mikiso Hane, Peasants, Rebels, and Outcasts: The Underside of Modern Japan, (Pantheon Books, 1982), pp. 2-76; 102-136
5. T Feb 17: Industrialization and Overseas Expansion

TH Feb 19
Reading: Modern History of Japan, pp. 115-160; Peasants, Rebels, and Outcasts: The Underside of Modern Japan, pp. 172-204
6. T Feb 24: Natsume Soseki, Kokoro (Regency/Gateway, 1957)

TH Feb 26: Kokoro
7. T March 3: The China Problem

TH March 5
Readings: Modern History of Japan, pp. 161-203
8. T March 10: FILM: *Pearl Harbor*

TH March 12: NO CLASS

FIRST SPECIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE 4:30 PM, MARCH 12.

SUBMIT A PAPER COPY TO THE SECRETARY’S OFFICE, MEARS COTTAGE.

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Weeks 9 to 14

9. T March 31, (Class canceled)
TH April 2: From Manchuria to Pearl Harbor [I]

10. T April 7: From Manchuria to Pearl Harbor [II]
TH April 9
Reading: FIRE ON THE PLAIN; Modern History of Japan, pp. 204-225;

11. T April 14: Film: Nanking
TH April 16: John Dower, Embracing Defeat, chapter 16.

12. T April 21: Japan under Occupation
TH April 23
Reading: John Dower, Embracing Defeat, chapters 1-5

13. T April 28: Embracing Defeat, Chapters 6-8
TH April 30: Embracing Defeat, Chapters 13-14

14. T May 5: Embracing Defeat, Chapters 15
TH May 7: Retrospect

SECOND SPECIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE MONDAY, May 11.
SUBMIT A PAPER COPY TO MEARS COTTAGE BY 4: 30 PM.