Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Xiaojia Hou
Office Location: DMH 137
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Email: Xiaojia.hou@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9 AM-10:15 AM, 1:30-3PM
Wednesdays, 9 AM-11AM
Thursdays, 9AM-10:15 AM

Class Days/Time: T/TH 10:30-11:45 AM
Classroom: DMH 167

Course Description

This course is to convey a general understanding of Japan's history from the Tokugawa period to the present, to connect the political, socio-economic, and imaginative realms of daily life so as to achieve a varied and complex view of Japanese society from the 18th to the 21st centuries. It does not pretend to comprehensiveness, but is nonetheless basic and offers a foundation for further study. It also intends to explore in the context of Japanese history many processes and tendencies that are evident in other modern societies: e.g., texture of daily life, industrialization, war, imperialism and colonialism.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Describe and explain the fall of Tokugawa Japan, the causes and effects of the Meiji Restoration, and Japan’s turn toward imperialism. This learning objective will be assessed by multiple-choice and essay questions on Exam #1 and Exam #2.
CLO2: Describe and explain Japan’s pursuit of empire and conflict with the West, leading to the invasion of China and World War II. This learning objective will be assessed by multiple-choice and essay questions on Exam #1 and Exam #2.

CLO3: Describe and explain Japan’s economic, social, and political transformation since 1945. This learning objective will be assessed by essay questions on the Final Exam.

CLO4: Summarize and critically analyze the work of historians of modern Japan. This learning objective will be assessed by the presentations and essays.

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook
Susan Hanley, Everyday Things in Pre-modern Japan, University of California Press.
John Dower, Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II.

Documents and articles will be posted on the Canvas site, as indicated by * in the syllabus. Doing the reading assigned for each class before coming to class is necessary to benefit from what we do in class. The tentative course schedule indicates details on the readings and the dates by which reading assignments must be completed.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings. Assignments include reading the textbook, reading assigned documents, accessing supplementary material through Canvas, taking exams, making oral presentations and writing multiple papers. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 8-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

Final Examination and Evaluation

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. For this course, you will be required to take three exams, make one presentation, and write an essay proposal and an analytic essay.

Exams. Students will take two mid-terms and one final exam.
Presentation. Each student is required to make an in-class oral presentation on a topic selected from Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II or Everyday Things in Pre-modern. After each presentation there will be a short period in which the presenter responds to questions or comments from the audience.


Analytic Essay. 5 pages, on a topic of your choice, but base your materials from Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II or Everyday Things in Pre-modern Japan. It is not a research paper and you should not concern yourselves with identifying primary sources. Instead, you should identify a key topic and analyze the particular topic, due Dec 4.

All written assignments, with the exception of exams, must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font), and have one-inch margins. Written assignments will be graded on both content and composition.

Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor frequently.

Grading Information

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<tr>
<td>Two mid-term Exams</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Analytic Essay Proposal</td>
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<td>Analytic Essay</td>
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Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

Come to class on time and remain in your seat while class is in session. Do NOT interfere with other students’ learning. Do NOT chat, interrupt, pass notes, eat noisily, take calls, check messages, or text in class. Students
who come and go repeatedly may be prohibited from reentering. If you have a question during class, raise your hand. There will always be time for questions and discussion at the end of the class period.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ Syllabus Information web page at http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/"
## Course Schedule

All dates and assignments in this syllabus are subject to modification. Any changes will be announced during the class.

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<th>Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines</th>
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| 1    | Aug 21 & 23| Tuesday: Geography of Japan  
Thursday: Tokugawa Polity  
“Samurai Codes and Noble Codes” *  
Susan Hanley, *Everyday Things in Pre-modern Japan*, chapter 1 |
| 2    | Aug 28 & 30| Tuesday: Samurai, Social and Economic Transformation  
Thursday: Tensions and the Contacts with the West  
Readings: *A Modern History of Japan*, 22-50  
Article “Peasant Families and Population Control in the 18th Century Japan”*  
Susan Hanley, *Everyday Things in Pre-modern Japan*, chapter 2-3 |
| 3    | Sept 4 & 6 | Tuesday: The Samurai Revolution and the Fall of Tokugawa  
Thursday: Meiji Restoration  
Article “The Motivations of Political Leadership in the Meiji Restoration” *  
“A Letter of Farewell to Nanatsu” * |
| 4    | Sept 11 & 13| Tuesday: **Discussion on Meiji Restoration**  
Thursday: Learning from the West and Adaptions  
“Meiji Constitution” * |
| 5    | Sept 18 & 20| Tuesday: Meiji Constitution  
Thursday: Social, Economic and Cultural Changes under the Meiji Time  
Article “Peasant Rebels” * |
| 6    | Sept 25 & 27| Tuesday: **Presentation: Everyday Living in Pre-modern**  
Thursday: Review  
Readings: *Everyday Things in Pre-modern Japan*, chapter 4-8 |
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| 7    | Oct 2 & 4  | **Tuesday:** **Mid Exam #1**  
**Thursday:** Japan in Wars  
Readings: Koji Taira, "Japan's Modern Growth: Capitalist Development under Absolutism," from Japan Examined — Perspectives on Modern Japanese History, edited by Harry Wray and Hilary Conroy* |
| 8    | Oct 9 & 11 | **Tuesday:** Empire and Domestic Order  
**Thursday:** The Economy and Society in the 1910s-1920s  
Readings: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 113-160  
Samuel Pao-San Ho, “Colonialism and Development” written from The Japanese Colonial Empire, 1895-1945, edited by Ramon Hawley Myers, Mark R. Peattie. * |
| 9    | Oct 16 & 18| **Tuesday:** Japan in the 1930s  
**Thursday:** Japan into the WWII  
Readings: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 161-200  
Japan at War: An Oral History: Introduction and part 1 * |
| 10   | Oct 23 & 25| **Tuesday:** Japan in the WWII  
**Thursday:** The Pacific War  
Readings: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 202-218  
Japan at War: An Oral History: Part 2-6* |
| 11   | Oct 30 & Nov 1| **Tuesday:** Japan Exit the War and the US Occupation  
**Thursday:** Review  
Readings: Andrew Gordon, A Modern History of Japan, 219-242  
John Dower, Embracing Defeat, “Japan’s 1946 Constitution” *  
“The Atomic Bombings Reconsidered” * |
| 12   | Nov 6 & 8  | **Tuesday:** **Mid-term Exam #2**  
**Thursday:** Presentations: Embracing Defeat I  
**Essay Proposal due Nov 8.** |
| 13   | Nov 13 & 15| **Tuesday:** Presentations: Embracing Defeat II  
**Thursday:** Japan in the 1950s  
Article “Orders in Japanese Society” * |
<p>| 14   | Nov 20 &amp; 22| <strong>Tuesday:</strong> High-Growth in the 1960s |</p>
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<tr>
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<td>Thursday: No Class, Thanksgiving Break</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Nov 27 &amp; 29</td>
<td>Tuesday: Japan in the 1970s and 1980s</td>
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<td>Thursday: Bubble Dusted</td>
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<td>Article “Gender Inequality in Contemporary Japan” *</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Dec 4 &amp; 6</td>
<td>Tuesday: Today’s Japan</td>
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<td>Thursday: Review and Discussions</td>
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<td><em>Economist’s</em> special report on Japan *</td>
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<td><strong>Essay Due Dec 4</strong></td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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