



## CIEE Kyoto, Japan

<b>Course name:</b>	Modernizing Ancient Japan
<b>Course number:</b>	HIST 3003 KYJA
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Ancient and Modern Japan
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	45
<b>Term:</b>	Spring 2020

### **Course Description**

In this course, students will have the opportunity to critically review the development and processes observed in regards to Japan's role in the contemporary world setting. We will discuss Japan's progression from a medieval hierarchy to a world class participant in the international stage among the fraternity of nations. Students will have the opportunity to review Japan's role on the world stage during the turbulent war and post war times to the modern day.

### **Learning Objectives**

By completing this course, students will be able to:

- Describe and narrate the reasons that led to the decay and decline of late feudal Japan, and then analyze why modernization is often associated with Westernization in Japan.
- Explain the attractiveness of modernity, modernization and their institutions to the Meiji Japanese (the road to 'wealthy nation, strong army'), then apply this knowledge to understanding contemporary Japan.
- Analyze the Meiji, Taisho and Showa Japanese impact and response factors to Western presence in East Asia (Meiji Japan's internal consolidation and late imperialist catchup)
- Evaluate Heisei Japan's regional and global roles, and analyze its successes and failures in diplomacy.

### **Course Prerequisites**

Previous completion of an introductory course related to history / Japanese history is recommended.

### **Methods of Instruction**

This course will incorporate lectures, discussions, and readings. Socratic teaching methods are implemented, the classes/tutorials will also encourage debates between class participants. Videos and Youtube snippets will also be featured in the classes. The lecturer will also incorporate field trip/s to an appropriate museum and/or heritage sites into the classes. Lecturer will also introduce material culture in the class for touch, feel, and sensory experiences with historical artefacts.



### **Assessment and Final Grade**

Class Participation	20%
Journal	20%
Critical Essays (x2)	20%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Class Participation**

You are expected to follow CIEE's attendance and participation policies as outlined in the CIEE Academic Manual for students.

#### **Journal**

You will be expected to post a short journal entry of 125 to 150 words to the online discussion group by 11:59pm about the readings assigned that day. You must also respond to at least two posts made by two different classmates to generate discussion online. These posts and responses will aid in the in-class discussion to be held the following day.

#### **Presentation**

You will perform an in-class presentation on a topic of your choosing, which relates to materials of the course. The presentation should not exceed 15 minutes. Depending on class enrollment you will conduct your research either individually or as a group. You must submit a proposal and have your topic approved by the instructor by Week 6. The proposal should be 750 to 1000 words and include (1) Topic you will present on; (2) How it is relevant to the course; (3) The critical viewpoints that you hope to discover through research and share with the class; and (4) An outline of how your presentation will be structured. Depending on the nature of their project, students may be required to use out-of-class time to make field visits, or to explore library and other resources. Students will be advised on their project proposal in terms of how to organize such out-of-class work.

#### **Critical Essays (x2)**

You will complete two critical essays of 1000 to 1200 words each. Your essays must analyze key concepts explored in class, and must follow conventions of academic writing. Each essay is worth 10% of your grade.

#### **Final Exam**

You will write short essays in answer to three questions prompted by the instructor. Each answer must be 500 to 600 words (total word count of 1500 to 1800 words). Your answers must demonstrate sufficient understanding of key concepts explored in class and must follow conventions of academic writing.



## Weekly Schedule

### Week 1 Problems with Late Tokugawa Regime

#### **1.1 Political Problems**

Description: Analyze the major reasons accounting for the decline of the Tokugawa regime.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 4 The Overthrow of the Tokugawa

Homework: Journal (Highlight and examine social/political/economic factors that accounted for the success of the Tokugawa regime but were also causes of its downfall)

#### **1.2 Economic Problems**

Description: Analyze the major economic problems that emerged at the end of the Tokugawa regime.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 5 The Samurai Revolution

Homework: Journal (Analyze the role of the samurai class in the decline of the Tokugawa regime)

#### **1.3 Social unrest**

Description: Analyze case studies of major protests leading to the decline of the Tokugawa regime.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 6 Participation and Protest

Homework: Journal (Analyze the reasons behind the late Tokugawa peasants' unhappiness and protests)

### Week 2 Arrival of Commodore Perry

#### **2.1 Who was Commodore Perry? Early US-Japan relations.**

Description: Analyze the Japanese reactions to Western ships, technologies and ideas arriving on their shores.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 4 The foreign threat and the opening of the ports

Homework: Journal (Analyze biographically, Commodore Perry, the man and his ideas.)

#### **2.2 The Black Ships and Technology**

Description: Analyze case studies of Japanese awareness of the industrial revolution and its technologies in the west.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 5 The Meiji Restoration



Homework: Journal (Analyze Japanese perceptions, reactions and response to modern industrial technologies.)

### **2.3 Japan and the Industrial Revolution**

Description: Analyze Japanese intentions and desires to industrialize, modernize and westernize.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 7 Japan's Turn to the West

Homework: Journal (Analyze Japanese indigenous attempts to build their own technologies.)

## **Week 3 Mechanisms to modernity**

### **3.1 Iwakura Mission**

Description: Analyze the responses of early Japanese modernizers when they visit the West.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B., Chapter 8 Empire and Domestic Order

Homework: Journal (Analyze the political underpinnings of modernization, Westernization and industrialization)

### **3.2 Political reforms and resistance**

Description: Analyze the responses of early Japanese resisters of modernization/Westernization.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 6 Opposition movements in early Meiji

Homework: Journal (Analyze the resistance against reforms and other changes, identify various groups for closer case study)

### **3.3 The Rise of the Zaibatsu conglomerates**

Description: Analyze the great industrial groups that arose in the era of modernization/Westernization.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 9 Economic Change in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Homework: Journal (Analyze the rise of heavy industries and explain their role in the modernization process of Japan)

## **Week 4 The Meiji Economy**

### **4.1 Heavy industries**

Description: Analyze the major features of the Meiji-era economy.

Readings due:

Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 7 Social, Economic and Cultural Transformations;  
Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 9 Economic Change in the 19<sup>th</sup> century

Homework: Journal (Analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the Meiji economy from the



perspective of political economy and/or macroeconomics)

#### **4.2 External trade**

Description: Analyze Meiji Japan's external trade.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the kinds of good that Meiji Japan exports and imports with its major trading partners. How essential were these goods for Japan's modernization process?)

#### **4.3 Colonial resources and Foreign Policy**

Description: Analyze Meiji Japan's external trade.

Readings due: Jansen, Marius B (editor). Chapter 12 Japan's drive to great power status

Homework: Journal (Analyze Meiji Japan's external relations in the context of a late imperial power. What were the difficulties in its relations with the West and with East Asian states)

### **Week 5 Imperial Japan**

#### **5.1 Japan in Economic Crisis.**

Description: Analyze Taisho and Showa Japan's rise to power on the global stage.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 11 The Depression crisis and responses.

Homework: Journal (How did modern Japan cope with the Great Depression? Did it emerge stronger from the crisis?)

#### **5.2 Japan in Wartime**

Description: Analyze Taisho and Showa Japan's rise to power on the global stage.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 12 Japan in wartime

Homework: Journal (Analyze the factor that led to Japan's decision to enter the war)

#### **5.3 Occupied Japan**

Description: Analyze the social, economic and political transformation of postwar Japan.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 13 Occupied Japan: New Departures and Durable Structures

Homework: Journal (How did the Americans change postwar Japan, analyze the political, economic and social features)

### **Week 6 Contemporary Japan**

#### **6.1 Economic and social transformations**



Description: Analyze the reconstruction of heavy industries in postwar Japan.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 14. Economic and Social Transformations  
Homework: Journal (How postwar Japan cope with the devastation of WWII? Analyze the policy factors)

*DUE: Critical Essay 1*

## **6.2 High growth era**

Description: Analyze the reconstruction of heavy industries in postwar Japan.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 15. Political Struggles and Settlements of the High-Growth Era

Homework: Journal (What were the factors that led to the high growth period in postwar Japan, especially the income-doubling decade of the 1960s? Analyze the policy factors)

## **6.3 Japan as a Global Power**

Description: Analyze the rise of Japan as an economic superpower.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 16. Global Power in a Polarized World: Japan in the 1980s

Homework: Journal (Analyze Japanese economic success in this decade? Analyze the policy factors and explain if the factors were sustainable.)

## **Week 7 Post-bubble Japan**

### **7.1 Fieldtrip**

For example, Kyoto National Museum. Exact location and contents of the fieldtrip TBD.

### **7.2 The Lost Decades**

Description: Analyze Japan's slow slide into recession in the 1990s.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 17. Japan's "Lost Decades": 1989-2008

Homework: Journal (Analyze the factors that led to the burst of the Japanese bubble economy.)

### **7.3 Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

Description: Examine contemporary Japan's most important issues.)

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 18. Shock, Disaster and Aftermath: Japan since 2008

Homework: Journal (Analyze Japan's role in the contemporary world, compare and contrast



with some features from Meiji, Taisho or Showa Japan.)

## **Week 8 Thematic lessons: Japan's Quiet Transformation**

### **8.1 Quiet Transformation**

Description: Thematically examines the gradual transformation of booming Showa Japan to mature economic growth in Heisei Japan.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Japans Quiet Transformation, Consequences

Homework: Journal (Analyze the socioeconomic challenges brought about by a slowing economy.)

### **8.2 Demographic challenges**

Description: Thematically looks at the graying population and decline in birth rates.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Baby Drought, Growing Old

Homework: Journal (Analyze proposed solutions and other coping mechanisms to manage the aging population.)

### **8.3 Caregiving**

Description: Thematically looks at the challenges of caregiving and elderly care.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Managing Crisis, Caregiving

Homework: Journal (Analyze the resources needed and diverted to caring for Japan's growing number of elderly patients and senior citizens.)

## **Week 9 The aging population**

### **9.1 Resources to handle the aging population**

Description: Analyzes problems for the aged, especially resources to take care of them.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Senior Abuse, Pensions

Homework: Journal (Analyze the conundrum of less young taxpayers looking after growing numbers of senior baby boomers.)

### **9.2 Reproduction**

Description: Analyzes the pains of a slowing economy and the factors causing the socioeconomic problems.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Prospects, Divorce



Homework: Journal (Analyze the reasons behind the low birth rate, low marriage rates and high divorces.)

### **9.3 Social Problems in Contemporary Japan**

Description: Analyzes the concept of urban poor and social disorder.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Entrenched in Poverty, Domestic Violence

Homework: Journal (Analyze the new emerging phenomenon of the urban poor and the reasons behind this trend.)

## **Week 10 Social Issues**

### **10.1 Social Problems in Contemporary Japan II**

Description: Analyzes social problems like bullying, suicide rates, etc.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Child Abuse Epidemic, Suicide

Homework: Journal (Analyze age old social issues and the policies design to mitigate them.)

### **10.2 Contemporary issues**

Description: Comparing the past with the present, detecting the major changes in Japan.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Conclusion Past as Prologue

Homework: Journal (Compare and contrast problems encountered in the Meiji and Taisho period with those from the Showa/Heisei eras.)

### **10.3 Hollowing out in the rural areas**

Description: Analyzes issues with rural area, including their hollowing out.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Running Amok, Village of the Damned

Homework: Journal (Analyze the hollowing out of the rural areas and emerging problems like food self-sufficiency.)

## **Week 11 Economic crisis**

### **11.1 The 1997 Asian Financial Crisis (AFC)**

Description: Analyzes Japanese policy measures in tackling economic crises.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Anatomy of a Crisis, Big Bang?

*DUE: Critical Essay 2*





Homework: Journal (Analyze case studies related to 1997 and 2008 as examples of how Japan copes with contemporary economic crises.)

### **11.2 Gender**

Description: Analyzes the marginalized social groups in the economy.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Desperate Youth, Women Workers

Homework: Journal (Analyze the enduring challenges of women joining the workforce and other gender issues using example and case studies of policies like the 1985 Equal Employment Opportunities Law EEOL.)

### **11.3 Political Reforms**

Description: Analyzes the reasons behind the calls for political reform.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Conclusion, Political Revolution

Homework: Journal (Analyze the attempts by political elites to break the deadlock in politics before PM Shinzo Abe's record-breaking tenure.)

## **Week 12 The Fate of the One-Party Dominant System**

### **12.1 Bureaucratic Reforms**

Description: Analyzes public calls for bureaucratic reforms, including postal reforms.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Taming the Bureaucracy?, Japans Enigma

Homework: Journal (Analyze the populist techniques that the Koizumi administration used to sell his policies directly to the people.)

### **12.2 The One Party Dominant System**

Description: Analyzes the future and shape of one party dominant system.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters The 1955 System, LDP Factions and Structural Corruption

Homework: Journal (Analyze the enduring attractiveness of LDP and why it was able to stay in power so long.)

### **12.3 Left Exits, Democrats Enter**

Description: Analyzes the exit of the left leaning politicians, leading to political reforms.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Demise of the Left, Electoral Reform

Homework: Journal (Analyze the factors behind the rise of the Democrats and Communist



Party members and the decline of the socialists.)

### **Week 13 Regional Security**

#### **13.1 Populism**

Description: Analyzes populist politics and political reformers.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Koizumi, Floundering

Homework: Journal (Analyze the reformist Koizumi, what were the main problems in Japan that resulted in the election of a populist leader.)

#### **13.2 'Normal' Nation**

Description: Analyzes Japan's (especially the conservatives) desire to be a country that has full control of its military and defense policies.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Prospects, Normal Nation?

Homework: Journal (Analyze the crucial issues in the debates between the pacifists and hawks.)

#### **13.3 Regional security**

Description: Analyzes Japan's regional security situation and its international defense policies.

Readings due: Kingston, Jeff. Chapters Unarmed?, Contesting Article 9, Chapters North Korea Abductees and Impasse, Futenma Dilemma

Homework: Journal (Analyze Japan's policy towards North Korea, what are the chances of rapprochement?)

### **Week 14 Fieldtrip and Presentations**

#### **14.1 Fieldtrip**

For example, Kyoto Museum for World Peace. Exact location and contents of fieldtrip TBD.

#### **14.2 Presentations**

*DUE: Presentations*

#### **14.3 Presentations**

*DUE: Presentations*

### **Week 15 Debates and Final Exam**

#### **15.1 Class Debate 1**

Meiji Japan is the world's first example of a non-Western path to modernity and



modernization, agree or disagree? Divide the class into proposition and opposition for this debate.

### **15.2 Class Debate 2**

The rise of Japan has been beneficial to the East Asian region. Divide the class into proposition and opposition for this debate.

### **15.3 Final Exam**

Final Exam

### **Course Materials**

#### ***Readings***

Beasley, W.G. *The Meiji Restoration*. Oxford University Press, 1973

Gluck, Carol. *Japan's Modern Myths*. Princeton, 1987 or the latest revised version

Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan*. Oxford University Press, 2013

Jansen, Marius B (editor). *The Cambridge History of Japan Vol. 5 The Nineteenth Century*. Cambridge University Press, 2007

Jansen, Marius B. *The Emergence of Meiji Japan*. Cambridge University Press, 1997 [Available free at [https://is.muni.cz/el/1421/jaro2017/JAP114/um/Cambridge\\_History\\_of\\_Japan\\_5.pdf](https://is.muni.cz/el/1421/jaro2017/JAP114/um/Cambridge_History_of_Japan_5.pdf)]

Jansen, Marius B. and Gilbert Rozman. *Japan in Transition From Tokugawa to Meiji*. Princeton, 2016 [Refer to Princeton University Press website: <https://press.princeton.edu/titles/676.html>]

Kingston, Jeff. *Contemporary Japan: History, Politics, and Social Change since the 1980s*. John Wiley & Sons, 2012.

McClain, James L. *Japan: A Modern History*. WW Norton and Company, 2002. [Catalogued at [https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/22258066?q&sort=holdings+desc&\\_id=1539568418267&versionId=41203916](https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/22258066?q&sort=holdings+desc&_id=1539568418267&versionId=41203916)]

Tang, John P. *Public- versus Private-led Industrialization in Meiji Japan, 1868-1912*, February 2008 in University of California Berkeley, [//eml.berkeley.edu/~webfac/cromer/e211\\_sp08/tang.pdf](http://eml.berkeley.edu/~webfac/cromer/e211_sp08/tang.pdf) (Accessed on 11 Oct 2018).

Tsurumi, Patricia E. *Factory Girls: Women in the Thread Mills of Meiji Japan*. Princeton, 1992

#### ***Online Resources (free resources)***

Asia For Educators. *The Meiji Restoration and Modernization*. Asia For Educators, dated 2009, Columbia, [//afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan\\_1750\\_meiji.htm](http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/japan_1750_meiji.htm). Accessed on 11 October 2018