



CIEE Tokyo, Japan

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| Course name: | Modernizing Ancient Japan |
| Course number: | HIST 3001 TOJA |
| Programs offering course: | Summer Japanese Studies |
| Language of instruction: | English |
| U.S. Semester Credits: | 3 |
| Contact Hours: | 45 |
| Term: | Summer 2019 |

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 in the world's stage during turbulent war and post war times to the modern day.

Learning Objectives

- Develop a critical understanding of Japan's progression through the ages and its standing on the world stage today.
- Develop a critical understanding of the historical milestones in respect to Japanese history
- Evaluate Japan's role in the modern world
- Acquire skills to evaluate and situate historical events as a researcher
- Develop collaboration and communication skills for students through group projects and oral presentations

Course Prerequisites

Successful completion of an introductory level history course – preferably Japanese or Asian history – or equivalent knowledge through self-study.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be taught using lectures, seminars, case study discussions, group presentations, and field trips to local sites of historical interest. Classroom activities will involve group work and critical discussion groups, considering and debating on key transformative issues Japan faced to arrive at its current standing on the world stage.

Assessment and Final Grade

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| • Participation and Attendance | 20% |
| • Essays | 20% |
| • Class Presentation | 10% |
| • Final Paper | 20% |
| • Final Exam | 30% |

Course Requirements



Participation and Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and unexcused absences may result in a lower grade for any affected CIEE course. Unexcused absences from 10 to 20% of the course will result in a reduction of your final grade. Unexcused absence from 20% or more of the course may result in failure of the course. Points may also be deducted for tardiness. Please see the CIEE Academic Manual for more information on CIEE's attendance policies.

Students are expected to actively participate in class. This includes preparing in advance, engaging in discussions, and being attentive and responsive.

Essays

Students will be required to submit two 375 word essays and at least two blog entries of 375 words.

Class Presentation

Students will be expected to collaborate and organize a 15-minute long class presentation on a topic of their choice, subject to instructor approval. Students must use both in-class and out-of-class scholarly materials and field research.

Final Paper

Students must write a Final Paper on a topic of their choice, subject to instructor approval. The paper must be at least 2,000 words and use both in-class and out-of-class scholarly materials.

Final Exam

Closed books exam covering topics covered throughout the class.

Weekly Schedule

NOTE: The following schedule and assignments are subject to change.

Week 1:

- 1.1 Course Introduction;
Historical overview of the beginnings of Japan's social organization.
Reading: Marius Jansen and Gilbert Rozman. "Overview" in *Japan in Transition, from Tokugawa to Meiji*. P. 3-28.

Week 2:

- 2.1 Isolated Japan
Reading: Marius Jansen. "The Ruling Class" in *Japan in transition, from Tokugawa to Meiji*. p. 68-90.
- 2.2 Isolated Japan (2)
Due: Essay 1 of 4
- 2.3 The West knocks on Japan's door
Readings: "The Backround to the Alliance" in Ian Nish, *The Anglo-Japanese*



Alliance: The Diplomacy of Two Island Empires 1984-1907. p. 21-96.

2.4 Field trip to a history museum or historical site

Week 3:

3.1 The Samurai class's transition in the Meiji Period
Reading: Beasley, William G. (1972). *The Meiji Restoration.* p.1-12.

3.2 The Russo-Japanese War
Due: Essay 2 of 4

3.3 Transitioning from the Meiji to the Taisho Era

Week 4:

4.1 Japan during the First World War
Reading: "Divine Aid and the Destiny of Japan" in Dickinson, Frederick R. *War and National Reinvention: Japan in the Great War, 1914-1919.*

4.2 Japan's Expansion into Asia
Reading: "Introduction" in Duus et al. Peattie *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937.* p. xi – xxx

4.3 Japan in the Second World War, 1941 - 1945
Due: Essay 3 of 4

Week 5:

5.1 Post-war Japan and the Allied Occupation
Reading: "Japanese diplomacy from prewar to postwar" in Iokibe, Makoto. (2013) *The Diplomatic History of Postwar Japan.* p. 1-16.

5.2 Rise and fall of Japan's post-war economy

5.3 Field trip to history museum or historical site
Due: Essay 4 of 4

Week 6:

6.1 Japan in the 21st Century

6.2 Due: Presentations

6.3 Final Exam
Due: Final Paper

Course Materials



Beasley, William G. (1972) *The Meiji Restoration*, Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Dickenson, Frederick R. (2001), *War and National Reinvention: Japan in the Great War, 1914-1919*. Harvard University Asia Center.

Duus, peter, Ramon H. Myers, Mark R. Peattie. (2014) *The Japanese Informal Empire in China, 1895-1937*. Princeton University Press.

Iokibe, Makoto. (2013) *The Diplomatic History of Postwar Japan*. Routledge.

Jansen, Marius B. and Gilbert Rozman (ed.) (1986) *Japan in Transition, from Tokugawa to Meiji*. Princeton University Press.

McKevitt, Andrew C. (2017) *Consuming Japan: Popular Culture and the Globalizing of 1980s America*. University of North Carolina Press.

Nish, Ian. (2013) *The Anglo-Japanese Alliance: The Diplomacy of Two Island Empires 1884-1907*. A&C Black.