

HIST/ASIA277-01 HISTORY OF MODERN JAPAN

Spring 2012

Department of History
Prof. Y. H. Tam

Macalester College
T&R, 9:40-11:10, OM002

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course aims at introducing the important aspects of political, economic, social and cultural changes in modern Japan from the 18th century to the present day. The focus is on the process of modernization in Japan. The course will stress the following problem areas: the Tokugawa (1600-1868) legacy, the Meiji Restoration of 1868, the Meiji state of 1881-1905, the Taisho Democracy, the military dominance in the 1930s, the invasion into China, the Pacific War, and Japan's rise as a super economic power in the post-war era. Through readings, lectures, discussions and audio visual presentations students will also be introduced to issues in Japan's international relations and globalization.

READINGS

There are several outstanding general, historical accounts, but the following books are chosen for most of the assigned readings:

Required books

Mikiso Hane. *Modern Japan: A Historical Survey*. Westview Press

Ryusaku Tsunoda (ed.). *Sources of Japanese Tradition*. Vol. 2, Columbia U. Press

Recommended Books

Carol Gluck. *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period*. Princeton U Press.

Herbert P. Bix. *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*. Harper Collins.

Edwin Reischauer & Albert Craig. *Japan: Tradition and Transformation*. Houghton Mifflin.

Additional readings, including journal articles, may be assigned from time to time. Students are expected to finish the required readings prior to class meetings.

REQUIREMENTS & ASSESSMENT

Map Exercise	5% of total grade
Attendance & Discussion Participation	25%
2 short papers on topics of your choice (6-8 pages, each)	40%
3 oral presentations on assigned topics (20 minutes each)	30%
<i>No mid-term and final exams</i>	

LATE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS & READING SUMMARIES

Except for medical reasons or family emergencies about which the Dean of Students has been properly notified, late submissions of assignments will receive a reduction of 20% in grading.

OFFICE HOURS

11:20-12:20 & 3:00-4:00, Tuesday & Thursday; and by appointment.

Office: 303, Old Main; 651-696-6262; tam@macalester.edu

Also, please feel free to call me at home (651-457-6529); the best time to get hold of me is 6:30-7:30 PM (except Wednesdays, holidays & weekends)

CLASS SCHEDULE

JANUARY, 2011 _____

Week of January 23

24--Orientation Meeting

26—Land and People in Japan

Readings: Hane, *Modern Japan* (Hereafter, Hane), Introduction

Recommended Readings: Hall, John W. & Richard K. Beardsley, *Twelve Doors to Japan*, 2-45

Discussion Topics: Compared with England, how “splendid” is the Japanese isolation in terms of political and cultural transformation? Why cherry blossoms and samurai are held in high esteem in Japan? What are the outstanding geographical features affecting developments in Japan?

Map Exercise begins (due February 3)

Week of January 30

31—Traditional Japan in Review

FEBRUARY, 2012 _____

02—Legacy of Feudalism

Readings: Hane, chs. 1 & 2

Recommended Readings: Reischauer & Craig, *Japan*, 1-32;

Duus, Peter. *Feudalism in Japan*, whole book

Discussion Topics: What are the significant features in the historical development in traditional Japan? What are the characteristics of Japanese feudalism vs. European feudalism? What are the legacies of Tokugawa Feudalism in terms of modernization in Japan?

Map Exercise due February 2

Week of February 6

07—Meiji Restoration, I

09---Meiji Restoration, II

Readings: Hane, 31-83.

Recommended Readings: Reischauer & Craig, 91-133.

Discussion Topics: Who engineered the Meiji Restoration? How would you assess Perry’s role in the Meiji Restoration? What were “restored” and “created” by the Meiji Restoration? How would you characterize the Meiji Restoration: a coup? a reform? a revolution?

Week of February 13

14--Meiji Restoration, III

16--Social & Economic Development

Readings: Hane, Chapters 7-8; Ryusaku Tsunoda, *Sources of Japanese tradition*, Vol. II, chapter 25.

Recommended readings: Carol Cluck, *Japan's modern myths*, 3-101.

Discussion topics: Was the privatization a deliberate move? What were the causes for overseas expansion for Meiji Japan? How crucial was the role of the Meiji oligarchy in providing elitist leadership during the early phase of Japan's modernization? Assess the contribution of the leaders: Kido Koin, Saigo Takamori, Okubo Toshimichi, Ito Hirobumi, Okuma Shigenobu, Yamagata Aritomo, or Ozaki Yukio. Assess the significance of the social and cultural changes.

Week of February 20

21--Treaty Revision & Overseas Expansion.

23--Crisis in Cultural Identity

Readings: Hane, Chapters 9-10; Tsunoda, ch. 29; Kenneth B. Pyle, *New Generation in Meiji Japan*. Read as much as you can.

Recommended readings: Gluck 157-286; Tam, "Informal Groups....," whole paper.

Discussion topics: What was the Meiji Dream for Japanese of different status and orientation? How did the world look at Meiji Japan? How did the Japanese themselves evaluate their country? Was the identity crisis in the new generation in Meiji Japan real? And why? discuss the "myths" in Gluck's book.

Week of February 27

28--Changes in the Taisho (1912-1926) Era, I

MARCH, 2012

01--Changes in the Taisho (1912-1926) Era, II

Readings: Hane, Chs.10-11; Tsunoda, Chapter 26.

Discussion topics: What is significance of the Taisho Democracy? To what extent had the Japanese established democratic institutions and democratic patterns of behavior by the 1920's? Was Hara Kei a democratic liberal"? What were the weaknesses of democracy in Taisho Japan? Comment on ideas of Yoshino Sakuzo, Minohe Tatsukichi, Shidehara Kijiro or Yamamuro Sobun.

First paper due March 1

Week of March 5

06--The Left Wing & Right Wing Social Movements, I

08--The Left Wing & Right Wing Social Movements II

Readings: Hane, Ch. 12; Tsunoda, ch. 28

Recommended Readings: Bix., *Hirohito*, Part II

Discussion topics: Was Shidehara a “democratic liberal”? Consider the leftist ideological disputes in pre-war Japan: mass versus class appeal: evolutionary versus revolutionary strategy; the significance of the right-wing ideology; legal versus illegal tactics.

Week of March 12

13--*Spring Break—No Class*

15--*Spring Break—No Class*

Week of March 19

20--The Road to Militarism: What went wrong?

22-- Invasion of China & the Pacific War

Readings: Hane Chs. 13-14; Tsunoda, ch. 27; E.O. Reischauer, “What Went Wrong?” in James W. Morley ed. *Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan*, 489-510; and Bix, Part III.

Discussion topics: Discuss the causes of militarism in Japan. What were Japan’s aims and aspirations in seeking to establish a “new order” and atmosphere” in East Asia? What was the context of international relations that led to Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor? Was militarism a logical outcome of the Japanese- style modernization? Should Hirohito be tried as a war criminal?

Week of March 26

27--Occupation Reforms, I

29--Occupation Reforms, II

Readings: Hane, Ch.15; and Hane, *Eastern Phoenix*, Ch. 1

Recommended readings: Bix, Part IV

Discussion topics: To be announced.

APRIL, 2012 _____

Week of April 2

03--Postwar Reconstruction, I

05--Postwar Reconstruction, II

Readings: Hane, *Phoenix*, chs. 2-3.

Discussion topics: To be announced.

Week of April 9

10--Development since 1970, I

12-- Development since 1970, II

Readings: Hane, Ch. 16; and Hane, *Phoenix*, Chs 4-7

Discussion topics: To be announced.

Second paper due April 12

Week of April 16

17--Issues in Contemporary Japan, I

19--Issues in Contemporary Japan, II

Readings: Hane, *Eastern Phoenix*, Ch. 8

Discussion topics: To be announced.

Week of April 23

24--Modern Japan in Review, I

26--Modern Japan in Review, II

No reading assignment.

Free discussion.

May, 2012 _____

Week of May 1

01—Class ends

End