Objectives

There are two main objectives for this course.

First, it will introduce the recent history and culture of modern Japan to students with little or no prior knowledge of that country. It will cover the period from the Meiji Restoration of 1868 (the start of so-called Modern Japan) to the present day. This is a huge time-period, and so of course the materials presented in class will by no means exhaust the possibilities of further study. Class topics will be selective and introductory, and will concentrate on cultural reflections of historical developments—we will explore the politics, cinema, gender issues, religion, issues of alienation, and literary expressions of a range of eras, with particular emphasis on the developments from one age to the next. Regular attendance in class is mandatory and completion of all required readings (which will be assigned in class) before they are discussed is politely but strongly recommended. Don’t like to read or to pay attention? Don’t take this course!

The second objective is to provide training in academic research—skills in information-gathering, synthesis, rhetoric, and writing which are transferable to and useful in every aspect of higher education and in many diverse career paths. To support this goal, you will have opportunities and receive detailed guidance on how best to develop your research skills. The assignments that are part of these opportunities form the basis for course grades. All course assignments are available on CourseSpaces at the beginning of term. Students are responsible for downloading these and completing them before the due dates.

In accordance with the policies of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, students who miss more than 10% of classes (three classes) will not be permitted to write the final exam.

Many of the issues we will discuss have the potential to be controversial. I will ask students making abusive or disruptive comments which interfere with the free exchange of all ideas, or behaving inattentively, to leave the classroom. Do not use cellphones, chat programs, IM apps, etc, in class. Ever. Seriously. Don’t f***ing do it.

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, September 7: Introduction to the class
  • Course overview, assignments, goals.
  • Introducing Japan: Location, Influence, Language

Monday, September 11: Transitions: From Premodern to Modern
  • The Meiji Era and its project
  <http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/doifinder/10.1057/9780230369184?webSyncID=9dec9b41-eacd-ad5d-8d8a-4d37cb23687c&sessionGUID=b25a5adc-9838-5297-d444-72c2a9a11829>

Thursday, September 14: Industrialisation and its legacies
• Environmental pollution and Governmental/Industrial Collusion
  • Reading: Industrial Pollution in Japan, Chapter 1: the Ashio Copper Mine
    <http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/uu35ie/uu35ie00.htm>
  • Reading: Feldhoff, “New Challenges After Fukushima Nuclear Energy, Critical Junctures and Regional Development Policies in Japan,” the electronic journal of contemporary japanese studies,
    <http://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/ejcjs/vol13/iss1/feldhoff.html>
  • Assignment One (annotated bibliography, term essays suggestions) given out (these are required course components)

Monday, September 18: Colonialism, Imperialism, Race
  • The Kanto Earthquake and scapegoating of Korea
  • Contemporary issues regarding race/immigration
    http://www.jstor.org/stable/133237

Thursday, September 21: War and its aftermath
  • Japanese Perceptions of the Pacific War
  • Present-day textbook controversy; Hotaru no haka
    http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/as.2007.47.5.683
  • McCormack, Gavan “Japan’s “Positive Pacism”: Issues of Historical Memory in Contemporary Foreign Policy,” The Brown Journal of World Affairs, Spring/Summer 2014 • volume xx, issue 11, pp. 73-91

Monday, September 25: Reactions to War: Japan as Victim
  • screening of Hotaru no haka (Grave of the Fireflies). Warning! Very sad film! Bring tissues!
    <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3397046>
  • Togo, Kazuhiko Japan and Reconciliation in Post-war Asia; The Murayama Statement and Its Implications, London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012
  • Assignment One: Annotated Bibliography due (this is a required course component)
  • Assignment Two (midterm essay) topics given out

Thursday, September 28: Reactions to change—Literature of Meiji/Taisho eras
  • language, subject matter, characters: the “I” novel
  • politics and censorship
  • Shiga Naoya, “At Kinosaki,” Modern Japanese Literature, Donald Keene, editor
  • Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, “The Shadow,” “The Frogs,” “Woman”

Monday, October 2: Literature, Part 2: Contemporary fiction
  • Questioning nature, writing alienation
  • Readings: Murakami Haruki, Yoshimoto Banana, Tsushima Yuko, Kawabata Yasunari

Thursday, October 4: Belief in Contemporary Japan, 1
  • Introduction to Shinto

Monday, October 9: Thanksgiving Day, no class

Thursday, October 11: Belief in Contemporary Japan, 2
  • Introduction to Buddhism

Monday, October 16: Midterm Exam, in-class, full session (This is a required course component)
  • Assignment Two: Midterm Essay due (This is a required course component)

Thursday, October 18: Internationalisation/Localisation
  • Japan and the world, always a one way street
• English in Japan: what on earth does it mean?

Monday, October 23: Alienation and Consumerism, 1
  • The family and karōshi

Thursday, October 25: Alienation and Consumerism, 2
  • Religion and Aum shinrikyo

Monday, October 30: Critiquing the Family
  • Screening portions of The Family Game (1983, Morita Yoshimitsu)

Thursday, November 2: Japanese cinema: an overview, 1
  • Humanism, Modernism, Postmodernism

Monday, November 6: Technology and the Popular Imagination
  • Dystopia, apocalypse, incredible convenience
  • Assignment Three: Term Essay Outlines due (This is a required course component)

Thursday, November 9: Manga/Anime: apocalypse and fashion
  • Why are manga characters so frighteningly cute?
  • Anime: transformation, liberation of the inner individual

Monday, November 13: Reading Break, no class

Thursday, November 16: Reading Break, no class

Monday, November 20: Re-invention of the Self: Cosplay and Fantasy
  • Harajuku and the self on display

Thursday, November 23: Anime, Love, and Social Critique
  • screening Hotarubi no mori e (Firefly Forest)
  • Term Essays Due (This is a required course component)

Monday, November 27: Japan: Land of the Future
  • Economic Issues, Homelessness, International Tension, Change

Thursday, November 30: Final Exam, in class, full session (This is a required course component)
  • Material will be available for pick-up in the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies main office, Clearihue C205, after December 11.
**Grading**

Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than 10% of classes may not be permitted to write the final exam.

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<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Mark Ranges**

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Students who do not complete all course assignments may receive an N. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all course requirements are complete.
Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 46-48 of the current University Calendar (2017/18). All students are advised to read this section.

Practices that are not acceptable include, for example:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write the student’s assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as the student’s own;
- Downloading essays or articles from the Internet, or copying passages from books or journals, and presenting them as the student’s own work;
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as the student’s own work;
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or tests;
- Unauthorised use of an editor (either an individual, friend, or professional service)
- Submitting the same work (essay, passage, etc) in more than one course
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor.

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

For more information, refer to:

https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/students/resources/expectations/index.php

In every course, the instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, so as to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge or understanding of the course material.

Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean. In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense and the weight of the assignment, the Chair may assign a grade of F (0 GPA) for the course. Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to be cheating, nor will they be permitted to complete supplemental assignments. Records of any violation will be held by the Director of Academic Advising on behalf of the Dean of Humanities. Such records will be destroyed four years after a student graduates. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript by the Dean; this notation is removed upon graduation.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.
PAAS 181
Contemporary Japanese Culture
Course Readings

Available through CourseSpaces. All students are responsible for downloading and reading this material.

1. Required and/or Recommended Articles and Books:

- **Industrial Pollution in Japan (The ashio Copper Mine):**
  <http://archive.unu.edu/unupress/unupbooks/uu35ie/uu35ie00.htm>


  <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/as.2007.47.5.683>

  <http://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/ejcjs/vol13/iss1/feldhoff.html>

  <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14672715.2012.738540#.VbPx1EWD8sg>

  <http://www.palgraveconnect.com/pc/doi finder/10.1057/9780230369184?webSyncID=9dec9b41-eacd-ad5d-8d8a-4d37cb23687c&sessionGUID=b25a5adc-9858-5297-d444-74ca9a1829>

  <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/10371390305352>

  <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/positions/toc/pos8.2.html>


  <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3397046>


- McCormack, Gavan “Japan’s “Positive Pacism”: Issues of Historical Memory in Contemporary Foreign Policy,” The Brown Journal of World Affairs, Spring/Summer 2014 • volume xx, issue 11, pp. 73-91

  <http://www.jstor.org/ stable/2645835>

• Tapia Granados, José A. “Macroeconomic Fluctuations and Mortality in Postwar Japan,” *Demography*, Volume 45, Number 2, May 2008, pp. 323-343

• Togo, Kazuhiko *Japan and Reconciliation in Post-war Asia; The Murayama Statement and Its Implications*, London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2012


2. Required Short Stories:


• Shiga Naoya, “At Kinosaki,” *Modern Japanese Literature*, Donald Keene, editor

• Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, “The Shadow,” “The Frogs,” “Woman”


• Tsushima Yûko, “The Marsh,” *Unmapped Territories, New Women’s Fiction from Japan*, Yukiko Tanaka, editor

• Kurahashi Yumiko, “The House of the Black Cat,” *The Woman with the Flying Head and Other Stories*, Kurahashi Yumiko


Recommended Links:

• Tsunoda, Yukiko, “Sexual Harassment and Domestic Violence in Japan”

• Miki, Emiko, “Divorce And Child Custody Issues In International Cases In Japan”
  http://www.tuj.ac.jp/newsite/main/law/lawresources/TUJonline/FamilyandDivorce/mikidivorce.html

• Various articles on Women’s Issues (Employment, Domestic Care, Sexual Harassment, etc) from:
  http://wom- jp.org/e/JWOMEN/index.html