

Topics in Modern Japanese Political History

KINMONTH, Earl

Course Information

Year	2016	School	School of International Liberal Studies		
Course Title	Topics in Modern Japanese Political History				
Instructor	KINMONTH, Earl				
Term/Day/Period					
Category	Advanced Subjects	Eligible Year	2nd year and above	Credits	4
Classroom		Campus	waseda		
Course Key	210GO40700	Course Class Code	51		
Main Language	English				

Syllabus Information

Subtitle The Political History of Japan and the Politics of Its Interpretation

Course Outline

The first goal of this course is to provide students who have already completed introductory-level study of Japanese history an opportunity to engage in more specialized reading and discussion. The course will cover selected topics in from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present but the primary emphasis will be on the 1930s and 1940s or the period of militarism and fascism in Japan. Students will examine in detail a number of major political developments from this period and polish their critical skills by reviewing important works of scholarship. The ultimate goal for each student will be to research and write a paper on a specific aspect of Japanese political history or thought in the time span covered by this course.

The second goal of this course is to give students an understanding of how the writing of history is always shaped by the contemporary circumstances of those who produce historical narratives or incorporate arguments and lessons allegedly drawn from history into their thought and writings. By understanding how and why authors have created different historical narratives of the same periods and events, students will gain the skills needed to see the manipulation of the past in the on going present.

The two-thirds of this course is an overview of modern Japanese history from the fall of the Tokugawa regime (1867) through the end of the American occupation of Japan (1952) with an emphasis on the 1930s and 1940s.

The second third of this course is devoted to student presentations and reports on selected subjects, particularly issues from the 1930s and 1940s that directly impact on contemporary Japanese politics and foreign relations.

It is expected students will acquire a basic knowledge of Japanese political history from the early 19th century through the end of the 20th century.

Objectives

It is expected that students will learn the political background to some of the major areas of controversy in Japanese history, especially those that cause friction with other countries and those that contribute to a negative image of Japan in foreign news media.

It is expected that by doing presentations students will learn basic skills for finding and selecting historical materials and for presenting historical controversies in lecture format.

Assigned work before/after class

Students should read the Pyle textbook and review the associated lecture slides before each each topic is presented. It is expected that 60-90 minutes will be required for each topic. Students may also wish to print a copy of the lecture slides and refer to it during lecture especially if they do not have near native capability in English.

Students should review their notes and the lecture slides after each topic. Any unclear points should be raised at the beginning of the next course meeting. It is expected that 60-90 minutes will be required for each topic.

NOTE: This schedule assumes two consecutive class periods. Generally the lecture portion of each meeting will run 150 minutes with a 15 minute break at the end of the first period. The last 20-30 minutes will be used for consultation, questions not directly related to the lecture, and supplementary video materials. Adjustments will be made depending on the number of students making presentations.

(BR) Basic (required) reading

(SR) Supplementary Reading

(TBA) To Be Added or Announced

Week 1

(1-2) Course Introduction - The Politics of Japanese Political History

(BR) None

(SR) None

Week 2

(1-2) The Pre-Modern Background of Modern Japanese Politics - How Feudal Was "Feudal" Japan

(SR) Pyle, pp. 1-75.

Week 3

(1-2) The Meiji Restoration and Its Interpretation

(SR) Pyle, pp. 77-131.

(RR) Maruis B. Jansen, "Meiji Restoration." In *The Cambridge History of Japan (CHJ)*. Volume 5. Edited by Marius B. Jansen (Cambridge, 1989).

(RR) Kenneth B. Pyle, "Meiji Conservatism." In *CHJ*. Vol. 5 (Cambridge, 1989), pp. 674-720.

Week 4

(1-2) Between Meiji and Militarism - Was "Taisho Democracy" Democratic?

(SR) Pyle, pp. 159-80.

(RR) Taiichiro Mitani, "The Establishment of Party Cabinets, 1898-1932." In *CHJ*, Vol. 6 edited by Peter Duus, (Cambridge, 1988), pp. 55-96.

Week 5

(1) Political Cross Currents in the 1930 - Militarism, Fascism, and Socialism

(SR) Pyle, 181-213.

(2) The Peculiarities of Japanese Fascism and Its Interpretation

(RR) Peter Duus & Daniel I. Okimoto. "Fascism and the History of Pre-War Japan: The Failure of a Concept." *Journal of Asian Studies* 34.1 (Nov. 1979): 65-76.

(RR) E. Bruce Reynolds, "Peculiar Characteristics: The Japanese Political System in The Fascist Era." In *Japan in the Fascist Era*. Edited by E. Bruce Reynolds, (Palgrave, 2004), pp. 154-197.

Week 6

(1) Military Politics: Rational and Romantic

(RR) James B. Crowley, "Japanese Army Factionalism in the Early 1930s." *Journal of Asian Studies* Vol. 21.3 (May 1962): 309-26.

(2) The Politics of Conscription and Enlistment

(RR) TBA

Week 7

(1) A New Heaven on Earth: Manchuria, The Plan Rational State

(RR) "Colonizing Manchuria: The Making of an Imperial Myth," in *Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions of Modern Japan*, ed., Stephen Vlastos.

Textbooks	There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be placed on reserve or will be available from the instructor. The lectures are loosely tied to Kenneth Pyle, <i>The Making of Modern Japan</i> , but purchase of this book is not necessary.
Reference	Kenneth B. Pyle. <i>The Making of Modern Japan</i> . 2nd Ed. (NY: D.C. Heath & Co., 1996). Andrew Gordon, <i>A History of Modern Japan</i> . 2nd Ed. (NY: Oxford University Press, 2009). Peter Duus, <i>Modern Japan</i> . 2nd Ed. (NY Houghton Mifflin, 1998).
Evaluation	Students may use other introductory survey texts but should consult with the instructor before so doing. Essay examination (80%) or report (80%) or presentation(80%), active participation (20%). "Active participation" will be explained in the first lecture.
Note / URL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Waseda Course N@vi system will NOT be used. Instead, students should refer to http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history4 or http://ehk.servebeer.com/waseda/history4. 2. The language of instruction is English. Occasional video materials may have Japanese language narration that the instructor will translate or summarize. 3. Material from the previous offering of this course is available on the web site maintained by the instructor. http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history4

