

Course Descriptions

Year	2011		
Course Title	Topics in Modern Japanese Political History		
Term, Day, Period	fall semester	01:Fri.4/02:Fri.5	
Instructor	KINMONTH, Earl		
School	International Liberal Studies	Student Year	2nd year and above
Category	Advanced Subjects	Credit	4
Classroom	01:11-702/02:11-702	Campus	waseda
Note			
Course Key	210GO40700	Course Class Code	51

Syllabus

[Even after classes have commenced, course descriptions and syllabus information may be subject to change according to the size of each class and students' comprehension level.](#)

Latest Update: 2011/07/13 09:48

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.

Course Description

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 first third of the course is a review of Japanese history from the 1840s to the 1930s for students who have not had a recent course covering this period.

Objectives

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

NOTE: This schedule is based on two consecutive class periods on the same day.

(BR) Basic (required) reading

(SR) Supplementary Reading

(TBA) To Be Added

Week 1 – 1 October Course Introduction – The Politics of Japanese Political History

(BR) None

(SR) None

Course Schedule

Week 2 – 8 October The Pre-Modern Background of Modern Japanese Politics

(SR) Pyle, pp. 1-75.

Week 3 – 15 October The Meiji Restoration and Its Many Aspects

(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 – 22 October Between Meiji and Militarism – Taisho Democracy

(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 – 29 October 1930s–1940s Japan – Militarism, Fascism, Socialism on the March
(SR) Pyle, 181–213.

Week 6 – 5 November 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 7 – 12 November 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.

Week 8 – 19 November 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. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Week 9 – 26 November Bureaucrats as Political Actors: Marxist Confucian Technocrats Renovate Japan

(RR) Robert M. Spaulding, Jr., "The Bureaucracy as a Political Force, 1920–1945." In *Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan*, Edited by James W. Morley. (Princeton, 1971), pp. 33–80.

(RR) Roger H. Brown "Shepherds of the People: Yasuoka Masahiro and the New Bureaucrats in Early Showa Japan" *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, Volume 35, Number 2, Summer 2009, pp. 285–319.

(RR) Peter Duus & Irwin Scheiner, "Socialism, Liberalism, and Marxism, 1901–1931." In CHJ Vol. 5 (Cambridge, 1989), 147–206.

Week 10 –3 December Visionary Intellectuals and a New Order for Japan and Asia

(RR) James B. Crowley, "Intellectuals as Visionaries of the New Asian Order," in *Dilemmas of Growth in Prewar Japan*. Edited by James W. Morley. (Princeton, 1971), pp. 319–373.

(RR) Miles Fletcher, "Intellectuals and Fascism in Early Showa Japan," *Journal of Asian Studies* 39:1 (1979 November): 39–63.

Week 11 – 10 December The Political Thought of Maruyama Masao – A Pathology of Fascism or An Apologia for the Fascists?

(RR) Maruyama Masao, "The Ideology and Dynamics of Japanese Fascism." In *Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics*. Translated by Ivan Morris, et al. (Oxford, 1963).

Week 12 – 17 December Review – Preparation for Writing Research Papers

(RR) None

(SR) None

Week 13 – 7 January Emperor Hirohito, General McArthur, and the Politics of Victor's Justice

(RR) TBA

(SR) Richard Minear, *Victor's Justice: The Tokyo War Crimes Trial* (Michigan Classics in Japanese Studies).

Week 14 – 14 January The Politics of Memory and Apology

(RR) TBA

(SR) Laura Hein and Mark Selden, ed. *Censoring History: Citizenship and Memory in Japan, Germany, and the United States* (Asia and the Pacific (Armonk, N.Y.)).

Wee 15 – 21 January Research Paper Presentations – Final Examination Submission

(RR) None

(SR) None

Textbook There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be placed on reserve or will be available from the instructor.

Book of references The background and review portion of this course (the first five weeks) will be keyed to

Kenneth B. Pyle. *The Making of Modern Japan*. 2nd Ed. (NY: D.C. Heath & Co., 1996).

Evaluation Examinations 40%
Papers 40%
In-Class Performance 20%
Others %

<http://groups.google.co.jp/group/ehk-waseda-courses>

URL

<http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history4>

Notes (Requirements)

1. This course will be largely conducted in a Q&A (question and answer) format in which the instructor will ask students to interpret the assigned readings or to describe their personal sense of concepts and events covered. This will lead to subjects not in the readings being taken up. Hence, regular attendance is essential.

Note 2. A Google Group will be created for this course to distribute supplementary materials and to make course related announcements. Students will be expected to join this group in order to receive course related announcements.

3. The language of instruction is English. Occasional video materials may have Japanese language narration that the instructor will translate or summarize.

4. The relative weighting of a final examination and a required report may be adjusted depending on student preferences and the number enrolled in the course.