History 119A

Japan since Hiroshima

Summer 2011

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Classroom/hours: Tu W Th 9:30am-12 noon, 209 Dwinelle
Office hours: Th 12:30-2:00pm

Course description

This course considers the history of Japan since Hiroshima—since the atomic bombings and Soviet declaration of war brought “retribution” and cataclysmic defeat to the Japanese empire in 1945. We begin with an exploration of the war itself and its complex legacy to the postwar era. Using the best recent scholarship and a selection of translated novels, essays, and poetry along with film and art, we then look at the six postwar decades and the transformations of Japanese life that those years have brought. We try, finally, to answer the question: has "postwar" itself come to an end?

Course requirements

Daily attendance is assumed. Writing assignments will include: two short papers, due in class on 6/7 (Tu) and 6/23 (Th) respectively, and a take-home final (due Th, 6/30). Each written assignment is worth 1/3 of the course grade. Details concerning each of these will be discussed in class.

Book order list


A copy of each of these books will be placed on 2-hr. reserve at Moffitt Library.

In addition to these books, a Course Reader (all materials required) is available at Copy Central, 2560 Bancroft, 549-2527. Materials in the Reader are indicated below with double asterisks (**).
Lecture schedule

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<tr>
<th>week#/date</th>
<th>topic &amp; readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/</td>
<td><strong>Pre/wartime Japan</strong> 戦前戦中の日本</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Readings</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5-24</td>
<td>Introductory</td>
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<td>5-25</td>
<td>The Interwar World and Japan</td>
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<td>5-26</td>
<td>From the “China Incident” to the “Greater East Asia War,” 1941-1945 Video: “Japan 1941-1945” and “The Bomb – February-September 1945”</td>
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<td>2/</td>
<td><strong>Politics</strong> 政治</td>
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<td><strong>Readings</strong></td>
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<td>5-31</td>
<td>Settling Accounts with Empire: Occupation Politics Video: “Reinventing Japan”</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-1</td>
<td>Conservative Hegemony</td>
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<td>6-2</td>
<td>Oppositions: ANPO and After</td>
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<td><strong>Economy</strong> 経済</td>
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Readings


6-7 Recovery and Growth
Video: “Inside Japan, Inc.”
NB: Paper #1 due

6-8 A Miracle Hits the Skids

6-9 Beyond Economic Power

4/

Society 社会

Readings


6-14 Country to City

6-15 Women

6-16 Family Life
Film: “Family Game” (Morita Yoshimitsu, 1983)

5/

Culture and Thought 文化・思想

Readings

“Intellectuals and Politics,” in Gordon (ed.), PJIH, chaps. 3, 9 & 15; materials in SJT, pp. 1060-64, 1072-81, 1091-93, 1175-87**;

6-21  Postwar Thought (1): to 1960

6-22  Postwar Thought (2): 1960 and Since

6-23  Representing “the People”
Film: “Otoko wa tsurai yo!” (Yamada Yōji/Tora-san series, #1, 1969)
NB: Paper #2 due

6/  Post-Postwar  「戦後」後

Readings

6-28  Cool Japan, The End of Postwar, and Yet…

6-29  Course Review

6-30  Final examination (take-home; due in class by 12:30)
Reader Table of Contents


