

HIEA115  
 Winter 2009  
 Instructor: Tomoyuki Sasaki (HSSB 6012)  
 Office Hours: Th. 2-4pm, & by appointment  
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## **Social and Cultural History of Modern Japan**

Class Meetings: M. & W. 5-6:20pm  
 T.A.: Judd Kinzley  
 Optional Sections: TBD  
 Reader: Philip Clements

### **Course Description**

This course examines the social and cultural history of modern Japan, from the late nineteenth century to the contemporary era. In this period, Japan emerged as a nation-state in the world capitalist system, transformed itself into an imperial power, fought several major wars, went through US occupation, and grew as a world economic power. Our aim is to understand how the ideas of Japan and of the Japanese were constructed and consolidated through these events. Our basic premise in this course is that the nation is a unit historically specific to the modern era: nations emerged only when humans living in certain areas made a conscious decision to unite themselves as discreet “nations.” But this does not mean that the nation is just an illusion. Once a nation is made, it can work as a powerful ideology that organizes the ways we think and act. We will examine how this process of making and reinforcing the nation took place in the case of modern Japan. Therefore, students are encouraged to call into question the beliefs and assumptions they have concerning Japanese society and culture, and, instead, to consider the historicity of those beliefs and assumptions.

We will discuss the readings in class every week. Therefore it is extremely important to complete each week’s readings by the first class of the week (Monday). Attendance is mandatory. Lecture in class will complement the readings and present different standpoints for historical analysis. Midterm Exam and Final Essays may ask specifically about the information, discussion, and points of view covered in lecture. In optional discussion section, students will have the opportunity to discuss each week’s readings in more detail and clarify questions about lecture and readings.

### **Books to Buy**

Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2003).  
 Shûsei Tokuda, *Rough Living*, translated by Richard Torrance (University of Hawaii Press, 2001).  
 Norma Field, *In the Realm of a Dying Emperor* (Pantheon Books, 1991).

These books are available at the UCSD Bookstore. All other readings are available on electronic reserve at the library.

### **Requirements**

1. Attendance
2. Midterm Exam on February 4. 40% of grade.
3. Final Essays due on March 16. 60% of grade.

4. Optional discussion section for extra credit. You must come to at least 7 sections during the quarter to qualify for extra credit. You must participate in discussion actively and demonstrate that you have completed each week's readings. You may improve your grade by up to 5%.

### Part I: Society in the Meiji Era

#### Week 1

- Jan. 5 Introduction  
Jan. 7 The Idea of the Nation

Reading: Gordon, 61-137.

#### Week 2

- Jan. 12 Educating the Japanese Subject  
Jan. 14 Gender and Family

Reading: Carol Gluck, "Civil Morality" in *Japan's Modern Myths: Ideology in the Late Meiji Period* (Princeton University Press, 1985), 102-156; Vera Mackie, "Freedom" in *Feminism in Modern Japan: Citizenship, Embodiment, and Sexuality* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), 15-44.

#### Week 3

- Jan. 19 No class (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)  
Jan. 21 Working and Living in the Modern World

Reading: Tokuda, *Rough Living*.

### Part II: Interwar and Wartime Transformations

#### Week 4

- Jan. 26 Aspiration to Democracy  
Jan. 28 The Middle Class and Urban Culture

Reading: Gordon, 139-180; Excerpt from the writings of Minobe Tatsukichi in *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Vol. 2* (Columbia University Press, 2001), 827-837; Jordan Sand, *House and Home in Modern Japan: Architecture, Domestic Space, and Bourgeois Culture, 1880-1930* (Harvard University Asia Center, 2003), 162-202.

#### Week 5

- Feb. 2 The Depression Crisis and Ultrnationalism  
Feb. 4 Midterm Exam

Reading: Gordon, 181-201; Sheldon Garon, "The Statist Solution, 1931-45" in *The State and Labor in Modern Japan* (University of California Press, 1987), 187-227; Excerpts from the writings of Gondô Seikyô and Kita Ikki in *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Vol. 2*, 956-967.

#### Week 6

- Feb. 9 Film: *Osaka Elegy*, directed by Mizoguchi Kenji  
Feb. 11 Wartime Regimentation

Reading: Gordon, 202-223; Ishikawa Jun, “Mars’ Song” in *The Legend of Gold and Other Stories*, translated by William J. Tyler (University of Hawaii Press, 1998), 3-37; “The Way of Subjects” in *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Vol. 2*, 998-1002.

**Week 7**

Feb. 16 No class (President’s Day Holiday)

Feb. 18 Overcoming Modernity

Reading: Excerpts from the Overcoming Modernity Symposium in *Overcoming Modernity: Cultural Identity in Wartime Japan*, edited and translated by Richard Calichman (Columbia University Press, 2008), 151-209.

**Part III: Postwar Homogenization**

**Week 8**

Feb. 23 Fascism, Revolution, and Democracy

Feb. 25 What Is Japanese Culture?

Reading: Gordon, 224-241; Maruyama Masao, “Theory and Psychology of Ultrationalism” in *Thought and Behavior of Modern Japanese Politics* (Oxford University Press, 1969), 1-23; Harry Harootunian, “America’s Japan/ Japan’s Japan” in Harootunian and Miyoshi, eds., *Japan in the World* (Duke University Press, 1993), 196-221.

**Week9**

Mar. 2 Growth and Protest

Mar. 4 War Memory

Reading: Gordon, 243-288; Yoshikuni Igarashi, “Representing Trauma in Late-1960s Japan” in *Bodies of Memory: Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1945-1970* (Princeton University Press, 2000), 164-198; Start reading *In the Realm of a Dying Emperor*.

**Week 10**

Mar. 9 Dissents in Postwar Democracy and Being Japanese

Mar. 11 Conclusion

Reading: Norma Field, *In the Realm of a Dying Emperor*.

**Final Essays** due at 7:00pm on March 16.