

**HIST 287**  
**History of Modern Japan**

Fall 2008  
Maybank Hall, Room 302  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:00 a.m.- 9:50 a.m.

Professor GAO Bei  
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Office Hours:  
MWF: 10:00 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.

Course Description

This course traces the rise of modern Japan from the Tokugawa period (1600-1867) through the Meiji Restoration (1868), and into the contemporary Showa (1926-1989) and Heisei (1989-) eras. Japan has experienced tremendous change over this period and transformed itself from the feudal military government of the Tokugawa period to the economic super power it is today. This course will concentrate on the Opening of Japan, the Meiji Restoration, the Impact of Western culture, and the rise of imperialism and militarism. It will also examine the War in the Pacific, Japan's defeat and American occupation, and Japan's postwar recovery and economic "miracle."

This class will consist of lectures, discussions, research-based oral presentations, quizzes, exams and writing assignments. Students must come well prepared to discussion sections and participate. In the course of the semester, students will learn to read, think and write critically and analytically about history.

Required Readings

Students will be required to purchase the following textbooks from the College of Charleston Bookstore:

Edwin O Reischauer, *Japan: The Story of a Nation*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (MacGraw Hill, 1990).  
ISBN: 0075570742

Natsume Soseki, *Kokoro* (Dover Publications, 2006).  
ISBN-10: 0486451399

Anne Walthall, *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan* (SR Books, 2002).  
ISBN-10: 0842029125

Yuko Ogasawara, *Office Ladies and Salaried Men* (University of California Press, 1998).  
ISBN-10: 0520210441

Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai* (University of Arizona Press, 1991).  
ISBN-10: 0816512566

**NOTE:** Course readings and lectures do **NOT** cover identical material. Rather, they complement one another. You are responsible for material in both lectures and reading assignments.

### Course Requirements

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Pop Quizzes – 10% of final grade

Research-Based Oral Presentation – 10% of final grade

Midterm Examination – 25% of final grade

Critical Book Essay – 20% of final grade

Cumulative Final Examination – 25% of final grade

Class discussion and participation– 10% of final grade

### Grading Policy:

|              |            |            |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| A = 93-100   | A- = 90-92 |            |
| B+ = 87-89   | B = 83-86  | B- = 80-82 |
| C+ = 77-79   | C = 73-76  | C- = 70-72 |
| D+ = 67-69   | D = 63-66  | D- = 60-62 |
| F = below 60 |            |            |

### Pop Quizzes

During the course of the semester, the professor will administer six unannounced multiple choice quizzes consisting of five questions taken from that period's reading assignments and lecture notes. You must take **FIVE** of these quizzes. Your best five grades will be recorded. The quizzes will be administered during the first five minutes of that week's lecture class. No make-up quizzes will be given. Students arriving late to class will not be given extra time to complete the quiz. Students arriving more than five minutes after the period begins will not be allowed to take the quiz.

### Research-Based Oral Presentation on "Historical Figures of Modern Japan."

Students should perform research on one figure from modern Japanese history. Possible choices might include: politicians, scientists, educators, businessmen, or military officials. The research should focus on explaining the historical importance of these people, and how they shaped the modern history of Japan, or even the world. The presentation should be no longer than 10 minutes including a two to three minute question and answer time.

**NOTE:** You must consult and list at least **TWO BOOKS** for your presentation.

Research-Based Oral Presentations will be conducted at the beginning of each week's discussion section. On **Friday, September 5**, the professor will pass out a sign up sheet on which students will register for their presentations.

### Critical Book Essay:

Students are required to write a short (4-6 pages) critical essay on Yuko Ogasawara's *Office Ladies and Salaried Men* during the semester. The Essay must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double spaced, with one-inch margins all around. The due date for this review will be **November 24.**

Well in advance of the due date the professor will supply you with a handout describing the issue or issues you should address thoughtfully in your essay. Your paper must be turned in at the beginning of class on the day on which it is due. Essays will be penalized one half letter grade for each day they are late. Failure to submit the paper will result in a grade of zero (0).

### Class Discussions

You will see from the syllabus that most Fridays are reserved for class-wide discussions of our readings and lectures. This will give us an opportunity to clarify themes from the lectures, explore in more depth the issues we have addressed earlier in the week, and to examine closely the sources historians use as they reconstruct the story of the world's past. This portion of your grade will be based upon attendance and your full participation.

**Note:** It is impossible to receive an "A" for the course without contributing actively to our discussions!

### Examinations

A midterm examination will be given in class on **October 10.** The final examination, on **December 10 (8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.),** will be cumulative in nature; it will cover material from the entire period. No make-up examinations will be allowed (except if you have a note from your physician). Failure to take an examination will result in a grade of zero (0).

### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend EVERY class. No student may accumulate more than **FIVE absences (EXCUSED and UNEXCUSED)** without suffering a penalty to his or her grade. For each absence after the fifth, a half letter grade will be deducted from the student's final examination score. Students who do not attend class can be assured that their grade will suffer dramatically.

### Classroom Etiquette

- YOU MUST TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONES ONCE IN THE CLASSROOM.
- TEXT MESSAGING IS NOT ALLOWED DURING THE LECTURES.

**NOTE:** the professor will reserve the right to penalize the violation of these rules.

### Academic Integrity

You are all part of a community of honor here at the College of Charleston. As such, you are bound in your behavior by the college's Honor System. As this system makes clear, dishonesty of any sort will not be tolerated in your academic work. Cheating and

plagiarism will be discovered and punished severely. For a thorough treatment of the college's Honor Code, you are encouraged to read the College of Charleston Student Handbook available on the college's web site. If plagiarism or cheating is discovered on any assignment, the student will fail that assignment.

## **Lectures and Required Readings**

### **Week One (8/27, 8/29)**

- Introduction to the Course  
The syllabus, the themes of the course, and some thoughts on reading a work of history critically and analytically
- "What is History?"  
Discussion and the model Research Oral Presentation by the professor

### **Week Two (9/1, 9/3, 9/5)**

- Introduction to Japanese history: Lands, peoples, and language
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 4-64 (skim).
- The Tokugawa State
    - (1) The Tokugawa Political System
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 65-74.
- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation
- Readings: Walthall, Chapter 1, pp. 3-24.
- Sign Up for Oral Presentations**

### **Week Three (9/8, 9/10, 9/12)**

- The Tokugawa State
    - (2) Society, Economy and Culture
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 78-91.
- The Tokugawa State
    - (3) Foreign Relations
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 74-77.
- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation
- Readings: Walthall, Chapter 2, pp. 25-44.

### **Week Four (9/15, 9/17, 9/19)**

- The Opening of Japan
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 94-98.
- The Fall of the Tokugawa
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 98-101.
- Discussion: *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*

### **Week Five (9/22, 9/24, 9/26)**

- The Meiji Restoration
- Readings: Reischauer, pp. 101-104.

- Building the Meiji State

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 108-115.

- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation

Readings: Walthall, Chapter 3, pp. 45-60.

### **Week Six (9/29, 10/1, 10/3)**

- The Meiji State

(1) Political Development

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 116-126.

- The Meiji State

(2) Culture and Society

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 105-108.

- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation

Readings: Walthall, Chapter 4, pp. 61-76.

### **Week Seven (10/6, 10/8, 10/10)**

- The Rise of Imperialism

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 126-131.

- Japan between the World Wars

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 131- 149.

- **Friday, October 10: Midterm Examination**

### **Week Eight (10/13, 10/15, 10/17)**

- Monday, October 13: Fall Break

- “Taisho Democracy”

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 149-151.

- Discussion: *Kokoro*

### **Week Nine (10/20, 10/22, 10/24)**

- Taisho Society

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 152-156.

- Japan’s Road to Militarism

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 156-169.

- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation

Readings: Walthall, Chapter 8, pp. 137-153.

### **Week Ten (10/27, 10/29, 10/31)**

- The China War

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 170-172.

- The Greater East Asia War

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 172-174.

- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation

Readings: Walthall, Chapter 9, pp. 155-174.

**Week Eleven (11/3, 11/ 5, 11/7)**

- The Pacific War

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 174-181.

- The Years of American Occupation

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 184-202.

- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation

Readings: Walthall, Chapter 11, pp. 197-212.

**Week Twelve (11/10, 11/12, 11/14)**

- Postwar Japanese Politics.

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 203-223.

- The Years of Recovery

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 224- 250.

- Discussion and Research Oral Presentation

Readings: Walthall, Chapter 12, pp. 213-229.

**Week Thirteen (11/17, 11/19, 11/21)**

- Postwar Japanese Society

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 251-278.

- Postwar Japanese Economy and Culture

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 279-324.

- Discussion: *Office Ladies and Salaried Men*

**Week Fourteen (11/24)**

- Japan in the Global Community

Readings: Reischauer, pp. 325-336.

**Book Review of *Office Ladies and Salaried Men* due at the beginning of class**

Wednesday and Friday, November 26 and 28

Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week Fifteen (12/1, 12/3, 12/5)**

- Japan's Policy towards European Jewish Refugees in Japanese-occupied China during WWII

- The Essence of Being Japanese

- Research Oral Presentation

**Week Sixteen (12/8)**

- Summing Up and Review for the Final Exam

Wednesday, December 10

**8:00 am to 11:00 am, CUMULATIVE FINAL EXAMINATION**