Literature of Modern East Asian History

RETHINKING MODERN JAPANESE HISTORIES

Class Meetings: Wed., 9-11:50  HSSB 3086

The purpose of this seminar is to introduce graduate level students to the major problems, paradigms, and literature in the field of modern Japanese history. Readings are arranged topically and will continue through the year. Students may choose to take one or more quarters of the sequence. Professor Tanaka will teach the second and third quarters.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Lead one or more sessions. The presenter should summarize the main arguments of the assigned reading, but also provide commentary on the book and/or articles while raising questions for discussion. Every other participant should come to class with at least two questions for discussion.

2. 1-2 page (double-spaced) commentary on each week's reading, to be handed in at the end of each class and graded P/NP. These should include a concise (i.e., no more than one paragraph) statement of each book's or article's main argument(s) and some additional reflection on the strengths and weaknesses of the readings. Although these commentaries are not meant to be polished essays, they may provide a good venue for demonstrating your thoughtful involvement in the class.

3. A longer paper (12-15 pp.) on a topic tailored to your particular interest. You will be expected to read the equivalent of two to three books beyond those on the required list. You must have the instructor's approval for your topic by Week IX, at the latest. Due Thursday of finals week (12/14), 9AM. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!

GRADING

Grading will be based upon all the requirements, so be sure to take them all seriously.

BOOKS (available at Groundwork Books)


Miyako Inoue, Vicarious Language (UC Press, 2006).

Maruyama Masao, Studies in the Intellectual History of Tokugawa Japan, translated by Mikiso Hane (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1974). Out of Print. Purchase online, borrow or we’ll arrange group photocopying at the first class meeting.

Jordan Sand, House and Home in Modern Japan (Harvard U. East Asia Center, 2003)


Thomas C. Smith, The Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan (Stanford U Press, 1959). Out of Print, but can be bought used through Amazon, etc.
BOOK CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES
These will be available through electronic course reserves.

Those with little background in modern Japanese history should consult a standard textbook such as Andrew Gordon's, A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present. (Oxford University Press, 2003).

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS & READINGS

* = optional

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (Week I, 10/3)
There are no assigned readings for this week. However, students are encouraged to begin reading.

FORMATIONS OF COLDWAR JAPANESE STUDIES I: MODERNIZATION THEORY (Week II, 10/10)


*Robert Bellah, Tokugawa Religion.

FORMATIONS OF POSTWAR JAPANESE STUDIES II: MODERNIST SOCIAL SCIENCE & THE PROBLEM OF "JAPANESE THOUGHT"(Week III, 10/17)

*Maruyama Masao, Thought and Behavior in Modern Japanese Politics (chaps. 1,2,3,7).

TIME, SPACE AND DIFFERENCE: EARLY MODERN AND MODERN I (Week IV, 10/24)

*Kevin Doak, "Culture, Ethnicity and the State in Early Twentieth-Century Japan." In Japan's Competing Modernities, 181-205.
* John W.Dower, War Without Mercy


*Michael Weiner, Race and Migration in Imperial Japan: The Limits of Assimilation (Routledge, 1994)


TIME, SPACE AND DIFFERENCE: EARLY MODERN AND MODERN I I (Week V, 10/31)


*Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish

IDEOLOGY (Week VI, 11/7)

Carol Gluck, Japan's Modern Myths.


MODERNITY & CULTURE (Week VII, 11/14)

Jordan Sand, House and Home in Modern Japan (Harvard U. East Asia Center, 2003)

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Re-inventing Japan: Time, Space, Nation, 60-78 ["Culture"].


*Marilyn Ivy, Discourses of the Vanishing: Modernity, Phantasm, Japan
SOCIAL HISTORY AND CONFLICT (VIII, 11/21)
Andrew Gordon, Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan

*Andrew Gordon, The Evolution of Labor Relations in Japan
*Irokawa Daikichi, The Culture of the Meiji Period.
*Mikiso Hane, Peasants, Rebels, and Outcastes: The Underside of Modern Japan (New York: Pantheon Books, 1982)

WOMEN, MODERNITY AND THE NATION (IX, 11/28)

Miyako Inoue, Vicarious Language (UC Press, 2006).
Gail Bernstein, ed., Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945, [chpts. 1, 7, 11, 12]


**INDIVIDUAL PRESENTATIONS** (Week X)
Each student must have read at least two-thirds of the works to be considered for the longer paper and make a brief presentation on the proposed topic.