History of Japan-United States Relations

In many ways a course on the United States and Japan misrepresents history; it presupposes that the two countries have been principals in relations between East Asia and the West during the latter half of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The two countries were often secondary players in the movement of Western imperialism into the eastern part of Asia. They were a part of a more general problematic, the idea of a "West" characterized by progress and rationality and the idea of an Orient, seen as backward, uncivilized, and spiritual.

Though the course is generally organized chronologically, historical material will not be presented as self-evident and objective. Instead, an assumption in this class is that history is constructed. Narratives are constructed by contemporaries and historians to tell their own story with varying implications to the understanding of a culture. An important theme of this class will be to inquire into the meaning of those historical narratives in our understanding of the relations between Japan and the United States. Consequently, a standard narrative will not be given.

Lectures will be designed to complement the readings. Students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading before class sessions and participate in class discussions. You will not be responsible for memorizing every detail of the readings and lectures, but for summarizing the major points and drawing connections.

Evaluations will be measured through your ability to write persuasive arguments based on lectures and readings; in other words, to reconstruct your own historical narrative.

Course Requirements:

attendance at lectures
midterm paper, (40% of grade), due November 4
final take home paper (60% of grade), due December 8
NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

You must also submit an electronic version of your paper to turnitin.com (on WebCT) on the same day.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the
Turnititin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnititin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnititin.com site.

Students must complete all course requirements in order to receive a passing grade. All students are expected to adhere to standards of academic integrity as set forth by this institution. Cheating or plagiarism will automatically result in a course grade of F.

Optional discussion section:
Teaching assistant: Dryden Hull

You may participate in a discussion section; it is optional. If you do choose to participate (not just attend), you will receive extra credit of one grade increment (for example from a C to a C+). The sections are in HSS6008 on Wednesday, 2:00-3:00 or Friday, 200-3:00.

Readings
All readings will be on reserve or e-reserve at the Geisel Library. Required books are available at the University Bookstore.

Introduction

Beginnings: Biddle or Perry
Williams, “Narrative of a Voyage of the Ship Morrison”
Treaty of Kanagawa
Secretary of the Navy report, 1853 and 1854

International System: Synchronization
Clash of systems
Miyoshi As We Saw Them
D. Graham Burnett, “Mapping Time”
Palmer, “Revised Plan for Opening Japan”
Adas, “Introduction: A Train for the Shogun,”

International Law: Unequal Treaty System
Miyoshi As We Saw Them
Murase, “The Most-Favored-Nation Treatment”
Konishi, “Reopening the 'Opening of Japan’”

Imperialisms
Peattie, “The Nanyo”
Mahan, “Hawaii and our Future Sea-Power,”
Hay, “First Open Door Note,”
Migration
- Moriyama, "The Government Sponsored Emigration Period,"
- Daniels, "The Issei Generation,"

Wilsonian internationalism
Multilateralism

Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and the Pacific War
- Azuma, *Between Two Empires*

Cold War Internationalism
Occupation of Japan
- Cumings, "Japan’s Position in the World System"

The American Lake
- McCormack, *The Client State*

Trade frictions
- Gavin McCormack, *The Client State*
- Ishihara Shintaro, *The Japan that can say No*
- Samuel Huntington, "America’s Changing Strategic Interests"
Readings

Books


Articles and Chapters:


Ishihara Shintaro, *The Japan that can say No*, trans. by Frank Baldwin, (Simon & Schuster 1991), 17-41


Alfred Thayer Mahan, “Hawaii and our Future Sea-Power,” *Forum* (March 1893)


Aaron Haight Palmer, “Revised Plan for Opening Japan,” from *Documents and Facts Illustrating the Origin of the Mission to Japan.*


S. Wells Williams, “Narrative of a voyage of the ship Morrison”, 353-80, in *Chinese Repository*, vol VI December 1837.