**HIEA114**  
**Tue and Thurs, 9:30-10:50**  
Solis 104  

**Stefan Tanaka**  
**HSS4062; phone: 4-3401**  
office hours:  
Wednesday, 1:00–3:00  
or by appointment

**History of Japan: 1945 to present**

This course will be an inquiry into many of the key themes and issues in Japan’s social, political, and economic redevelopments since World War II. As such, it is interdisciplinary and only loosely within a chronological framework. The underlying theme is the role of capitalism, the foundation of which was strengthened during the Occupation. It is the basis of Japan’s redevelopment within the liberal-internationalist economy with the United States as de facto leader. This system is also central to the conditions that frame individual activity today in such realms as labor, consumerism, and protest. It is hoped that this theme will guide our inquiry into recent Japanese history, both in its dealings as a world power and in the relations between individuals and the nation-state.

Lectures will complement, not reiterate, readings. Students will be expected to have completed the assigned reading before class sessions. Discussion is encouraged.

You will not be responsible for memorizing every detail of the readings and lectures, but for summarizing the major points, drawing connections, and evaluating different interactions in their historical context. Evaluations will be measured through your ability to write persuasive arguments based on class discussions and readings; in other words, to reconstruct your own historical narrative. Grades will be based on a mid-term paper (approx 5–7 pages), and a final paper. Class participation will also be considered.

**Course Requirements:**

- attendance at lectures
- midterm paper, May 8
- final take home paper (60% of grade), due June 13
- NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

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 sections:**  
teaching assistant: Greg de Pies

You may participate in a discussion section, to be arranged during the first week of class. It is optional. If you do choose to participate (participation entails constructive, informed engagement, not merely showing up) you will receive extra credit of
one grade increment (for example from a C to a C+).

**Introduction: Modernity and the non-West**

**Japan’s Reintegration into the Liberal-Internationalist World**

**Ending and Beginnings: The Atomic Bomb**
- US Strategic Bombing Survey
- Weller, "A Nagasaki Report"
- Hasegawa, “The Atomic Bombs and the Soviet Entry”
- movie: Hiroshima-Nagasaki

**Occupation and the Constitution**(week 2)
- Koseki, *The Birth of Japan’s Postwar Constitution*

**The Reverse Course and the Cold War**(week 3)
- Sakamoto Yoshikazu, "The International Context of the Occupation of Japan."

**Economic settlements**(week 4)
- Nakamura Takafusa, "Wealth without Military Power."
- Yoshimoto, “No Regrets for Our Youth,” *Kurosawa.*
- film: *No Regrets for Our Youth*

**International settlements**(week 5)
- Cumings, “East Asia and the United States” *Parallax Visions*
- Treaty of Peace with Japan
- Japan-U.S. Security Treaty

**People in a capitalistic society**

**Work**(week 6)
- Kumazawa Makoto, “A Postwar History of Women Workers”
- Edward Fowler, *San-ya Blues.*

**Regimentation**(week 7)
- Anne Allison, “Producing Mothers.”
- John McCreery, “What’s Happening to the Children?”

**Protest**(week 8)
- Sasaki-Uemura, “The Grass Seeds” *Organizing the Spontaneous*
- George, “Discovering the Disease and Its Cause,” *Minamata*
- movie: Godzilla
Capitalism and the place of culture

Globalization and nation (week 9)
Yoshimoto, “High and Low,” Kurosawa.
Ohnuki-Tierney “McDonald’s in Japan”

The Future of Modernity (week 10)
Masao Miyoshi, “Japan is not Interesting”
Susan J. Napier, “Waiting for the End of the World,”
Greenfield, “The Incredibly Strange Mutant Creatures”
film: Otaku Unite!

Readings
All readings will be on reserve at the Geisel Library. Required books are available at Groundwork Books. Articles are available from e-reserves (Geisel).

Books

Articles


