This course will be an inquiry into many of the key themes and issues in Japan's social, political, and economic redevelopment 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 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 9
- NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED

You must also submit an electronic version of your paper to turnitin.com 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 Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.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 sections:
teaching assistant: Kate McDonald

You may participate in an optional discussion section. 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+). Choose from either Wednesday, 2-2:50 or Thursday, 1-1:50 in HSS3086.

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"
Igarashi, Bodies of Memory, pp. 19-46
Dower, Embracing Defeat, 19-120
movie: Hiroshima-Nagasaki

Occupation and the Constitution(week 2)
Dower, Embracing Defeat, 225-442

The Reverse Course and the Cold War(week 3)
Dower, Embracing Defeat, 443-524

Economic settlements(week 4)
Dower, Embracing Defeat, 525-64
Nakamura, "Wealth without Military Power."
Yoshimoto, "No Regrets for Our Youth," Kurosawa.
movie: No Regrets for Our Youth

Peace Treaty, Anaesthesia, Culture(week 5)
Cumings, "East Asia and the United States" Parallax Visions
Igarashi, Bodies of Memory, 73-103
"Treaty of Peace with Japan"
"Treaty of Mutual Cooperation"

People in a capitalistic society
Background: Economic Growth and Political Conservatism
Ishinomori Japan, Inc

Work(week 6)
Kumazawa, "A Postwar History of Women Workers"
Fowler, San-ya Blues.

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

Protest (week 8)
Sasaki-Uemura, “The Grass Seeds” Organizing the Spontaneous
Igarashi, Bodies of Memory, 131-63, 104-30
movie: Godzilla

Capitalism and the place of culture

Globalization, Remembering, the Idea of Japan (week 9)
Igarashi, Bodies of Memory, 164-98.
Ohnuki-Tierney “McDonald’s in Japan”

The Future of Modernity (week 10)
Miyoshi, “Japan is not Interesting”
Napier, “Waiting for the End of the World.”
Greenfield, “The Incredibly Strange Mutant Creatures”

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


