HIEA115
Winter 2009
Instructor: Tomoyuki Sasaki (HSSB 6012)
Office Hours: Th. 2-4pm, & by appointment
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Social and Cultural History of Modern Japan

Class Meetings: M. & W. 5-6:20pm
T.A.: Judd Kinzley
Optional Sections: TBD
Reader: Philip Clements

Course Description
This course examines the social and cultural history of modern Japan, from the late nineteenth century to the contemporary era. In this period, Japan emerged as a nation-state in the world capitalist system, transformed itself into an imperial power, fought several major wars, went through US occupation, and grew as a world economic power. Our aim is to understand how the ideas of Japan and of the Japanese were constructed and consolidated through these events. Our basic premise in this course is that the nation is a unit historically specific to the modern era: nations emerged only when humans living in certain areas made a conscious decision to unite themselves as discreet “nations.” But this does not mean that the nation is just an illusion. Once a nation is made, it can work as a powerful ideology that organizes the ways we think and act. We will examine how this process of making and reinforcing the nation took place in the case of modern Japan. Therefore, students are encouraged to call into question the beliefs and assumptions they have concerning Japanese society and culture, and, instead, to consider the historicity of those beliefs and assumptions.

We will discuss the readings in class every week. Therefore it is extremely important to complete each week’s readings by the first class of the week (Monday). Attendance is mandatory. Lecture in class will complement the readings and present different standpoints for historical analysis. Midterm Exam and Final Essays may ask specifically about the information, discussion, and points of view covered in lecture. In optional discussion section, students will have the opportunity to discuss each week’s readings in more detail and clarify questions about lecture and readings.

Books to Buy

These books are available at the UCSD Bookstore. All other readings are available on electronic reserve at the library.

Requirements
1. Attendance
2. Midterm Exam on February 4. 40% of grade.
3. Final Essays due on March 16. 60% of grade.
4. Optional discussion section for extra credit. You must come to at least 7 sections during the quarter to qualify for extra credit. You must participate in discussion actively and demonstrate that you have completed each week’s readings. You may improve your grade by up to 5%.

Part I: Society in the Meiji Era

Week 1
Jan. 5   Introduction
Jan. 7   The Idea of the Nation

Reading: Gordon, 61-137.

Week 2
Jan. 12  Educating the Japanese Subject
Jan. 14  Gender and Family


Week 3
Jan. 19  No class (Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday)
Jan. 21  Working and Living in the Modern World

Reading: Tokuda, *Rough Living.*

Part II: Interwar and Wartime Transformations

Week 4
Jan. 26  Aspiration to Democracy
Jan. 28  The Middle Class and Urban Culture


Week 5
Feb. 2   The Depression Crisis and Ultranationalism
Feb. 4   Midterm Exam


Week 6
Feb. 9   Film: *Osaka Elegy*, directed by Mizoguchi Kenji
Feb. 11  Wartime Regimentation

**Week 7**
Feb. 16  No class (President’s Day Holiday)
Feb. 18  Overcoming Modernity


**Part III: Postwar Homogenization**

**Week 8**
Feb. 23  Fascism, Revolution, and Democracy
Feb. 25  What Is Japanese Culture?


**Week 9**
Mar. 2  Growth and Protest
Mar. 4  War Memory


**Week 10**
Mar. 9  Dissents in Postwar Democracy and Being Japanese
Mar. 11  Conclusion

Reading: Norma Field, *In the Realm of a Dying Emperor*.

**Final Essays** due at 7:00pm on March 16.