

Modern Japan

HTS 3062
Spring 2011
MWF 2-3 pm
304 D.M. Smith

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Office Hours: MWF 9am-12pm, and by appointment.

From the mid-nineteenth century on Japan has been transformed from an obscure land of paddy fields into a modern economic superpower. In this course, an introduction of traditional Japanese culture and society will be followed by interpretations of Tokugawa shogunate, the Meiji Restoration, the rise of militarism, wars, the American occupation, contemporary life, and Japan's "economic miracle" since the 1970s. The question of Japan's modern transformation and its impact on the world and the Japanese people is the theme of this course.

REQUIRED READINGS:

The following books are available at the bookstore:

James L. McClain, *Japan: A Modern History*. New York: W.W.Norton, 2002.

Noriko Kamachi,* *Culture and Customs of Japan*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999.

(*Kamachi's book will be assigned as a source for a take-home essay)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Quizzes	30%
2) Midterm	20%
3) Take-home Final Exam	40%
4) Attendance	10%

In evaluating a student's performance, consideration will also be given to informed participation in discussions.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND READINGS

Part I Traditional Japan

Week 1 January 10-14
 Cultural Patterns of Japan
 Kamachi 1-26, McClain 5-15

Week 2 January 17 (official holiday)-21
The Shoguns
Kamachi 27-42, McClain 16-47

Week 3 January 24-28
Commodore Perry and the “Black Ships”
McClain 48-112, Kamachi 43-68

Topic for Discussion: The Tokugawa Heritage

Part II Meiji Japan

Week 4 January 31-February 4
Revolution and Restoration
McClain 119-152, Kamachi 69-91

Week 5 February 7-11
Progressivism and Conservatism
McClain 153-275

Week 6 February 14-18
War and Peace
McClain 283-315

Topic for Discussion: Modernization and the Meiji State

Part III The Rise of Militarism and World War II

Week 7 February 21-25
The Taisho Democracy
McClain 316-356

Week 8 February 28-March 4
The Rise of Militarism
McClain 357-397

Midterm: Friday, March 4

Week 9 March 7-11
From the China War to the Pacific War
McClain 405-464

Topic for Discussion: War and Nationalism

Part IV Post War Japan

Week 10 March 14-18
 The Defeat
 McClain 464-515

Spring Break: March 21-25

Week 11 March 28-April 1
 The American Occupation
 McClain 525-555

Week 12 April 4-8
 The Economic Recovery
 McClain 555-582, Kamachi 93-111

Topic for Discussion: US-Japan Relations and the “Economic Miracle”

Part V The Economic Giant and Its Crisis

Week 13 April 11-15
 Social Changes
 McClain 582-589, Kamachi 112-125

Week 14 April 18-22
 The impact of the Japanese model
 McClain 599-632, Kamachi 126-149

Week 15 April 25-29
 Japan in the new century; Review for Final Examination
 Kamachi 151-166

Topic for Discussion: High-tech Japan

Students will have the topics and guidelines for the take-home final essays in Week 14. The essays are due on Friday, May 6th, 2:00 p.m. in Room 122 of the Old CE Building.