

ASH 3931 The Japanese Empire
Spring 2019
T 10.40-11.30 / R 10.40-12.35
Classroom: FLI 0117

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Description

Japan has widely been considered as an exception in the history of imperialism for her rapid transformation from a victim of Euro-American imperialism to a major colonial power in Asia and the Pacific. Yet, as the current scholarship on imperialism and colonialism has demonstrated, every instance of colonial expansion had its own local and historical dynamic.

- What was the global and regional context in which Japan modernized itself to join the competition for colonial expansion?
- What were the social and cultural factors that turned Japan into a modern imperialist power in East Asia?
- How did it differ from China, a larger country in the region with similar but more adverse engagements with Euro-American imperialists?

The course will answer these questions in a chronological order during the period from 1868 to 1945 with the aid and use of both primary and secondary sources, in addition to visual materials. Some of the topics we will address include: The social and political organization of Tokugawa Japan; the rationale and effects of the Meiji restoration in Japanese modernization; Japanese interactions with Euro-American powers and China; the political economy of Japanese expansion in Taiwan, Korea, and Manchuria; the Japanese project of the Greater Asia Co-Prosperity Zone; and, Japanese expansion and total war.

Objectives

By the end of this course, students will understand the major themes, concepts, and issues relating to the history of the Japanese empire from 1868 to 1945, and will be able to compare and contrast Japanese colonial expansion in East Asia to Euro-American cases. In addition, students will demonstrate proficiency in the analysis of primary and secondary

sources as well as historical reasoning and argument through written assignments, and utilize historical knowledge to design creative projects such as fiction and comics.

Grading

Attendance and Participation	%20
Quiz (x2)	%20
Midterm Essay	%25
Oral Presentation	%10
Final Project	%25

Requirements and Expectations

- Students are expected to attend class **on time**, having completed the required readings, and prepared with comments and questions to share with the class. Lateness is not only distracting to class members, but arriving more than ten minutes late will count as an **absence**. You will lose points after three excused absences regardless of your class performance.
- **Participation** is graded not solely on the quantity, but also on the **quality** of your comments.
- If you miss a class for a valid reason, please do not email the instructor to learn what you have missed. Office hours cannot be utilized to make up missed classes. Instead, **ask your classmates for any missing class notes and assignments**.
- You will need to use your **phones** for occasional Kahoot **review exercises**. Please make sure your phone is connected to the Internet. Review activities are not counted toward your final grade.
- You can use your **tablets and laptops** only for note-taking purposes. If other activity is detected, the student will not be allowed to use technology for the rest of the semester.

- You can send **emails to the instructor** at any time, but do not expect a response either after 6 pm during the week or over the weekends. **Office visits** are highly encouraged during office hours, but if you have a conflict, please ask for an appointment for a time that works for you.
- There will be two quiz exams during the semester. They will be based on **facts** (names, dates, events) covered in the classes.
- For the **midterm**, students will be given a prompt one week before the essay due date. The **rubric** for the essay will be posted on the Canvas Assignments page simultaneously with the essay prompt.
- **The final project** is a creative activity in which students, working in pairs, will design a **comic story** with the materials provided on Pixton.com. Students with skills in drawing can work with their own drawings instead of using the Pixton templates. On the indicated date, each team will **orally present** their design to the class and receive feedback to improve their final projects. The final project will be graded based on the accuracy of the content, its creativity, and its engagement.
- **No late work** is accepted unless a medical emergency is documented.
- If you need any **special accommodations**, please contact the Dean of Students Office (<https://dso.ufl.edu>), or the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu>) and inform the instructor about your special needs.

Course Materials

There is one textbook for this course. You can purchase it or use the eBook version through the UF library. Additional readings will be available online. If you do not use the latest edition of the book, please **check the syllabus before each class** to make sure you read the correct content/pages.

Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*,
New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Schedule and Course Plan

Week 1

Jan 8 Course and Syllabus Introduction

Jan 10 Reading and Pronouncing Japanese words

Guest lecturer: Dr. Matthieu Felt, Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, UF

Read: Gordon, Introduction, pp. 3-9.

Week 2

Jan 15 Tokugawa Japan: politics and society

Jan 17 Tokugawa Japan: social and economic changes

Read: Gordon, chapters 1-2, pp. 11-34.

Week 3

Jan 22 The Fall of the Tokugawa I

Jan 24 The Fall of the Tokugawa II

Read: Gordon, chapters 3-4, pp. 35-59.

Week 4

Jan 29 The Meiji Restoration: Political Centralization

Jan 31 The Meiji Restoration: Building a Civilized Nation

Read: Gordon, chapter 5, pp. 61-75.

Week 5

Feb 5 Political Activism in Meiji Japan

Feb 7 The Meiji Restoration: New Economy

Read: Gordon, chapter 6, pp. 75-92.

Week 6

Feb 12 The Miracle of Modern Japan

Feb 14 Empire-building: Japan, China, and Russia

Read: Gordon, chapter 7, pp. 93-112.

Week 7

Feb 19 Empire and Nation

Feb 21 Japanese Colonization in Taiwan

Read: Gordon, chapter 8, pp. 113-137.

Week 8

Feb 26 Japanese Colonization in Korea

Feb 28 Movie: *the Wind Rises*, directed by Hayao Miyazaki, 2013.

Read: Peter Duus, *The Abacus and the Sword: The Japanese Penetration of Korea, 1895-1910*, chapter 11, pp. 397-423.

--- Spring Break ---

2-9 March 2019

Week 9

Mar 12 Imperial Japan and World War I

Mar 14 Taisho Era

Read: Gordon, chapters 9-10, pp. 139-180.

Week 10

Mar 19 Guest Speaker: Nina Caputo

Mar 21 Japanese Colonial Policy and Pan-Asianism

Read: Rustin B. Gates, "Pan-Asianism in Prewar Japanese Foreign Affairs: The Curious Case of Uchida Yasuya," *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, 2011.

Week 11

Mar 26 Japanese Expansion in East Asia: Manchuria

Mar 28 Japanese Expansion in East Asia: Global Tensions

Read: Gordon, chapter 11, pp. 181-201.

Week 12

Apr 2 Wartime Japan

Apr 4 Oral Presentations

Read: Gordon, chapter 12, pp. 202-223.

Week 13

Apr 9 The Fall of the Japanese Empire

Apr 11 Oral Presentations

Week 14

Apr 16 Occupied Japan

Apr 18 Legacy of Japanese Colonialism in East Asia

Read: Gordon, chapter 13, pp. 224-241.

Week 15

Apr 23 Final Projects Due