

Post-Imperial Japanese History

Instructor :

Doyoung Park

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Lesson : Tuesday, Thursday 12:50~14:20

Office Hours : By Appointment

Subject code : 2031

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of Japanese history and culture. The format of the course is generally chronological, moving from ancient to modern times, and the course places significant emphasis on the development of students' own perspective on Japanese history. Additionally, we will focus on examining the links between Japanese history at large and the historical legacy of the Kansai region, so that, as international students studying in the metropolis of Osaka, you can witness and experience real history in everyday life.

Resources

The teacher will provide hand-outs and Power Point slides for each class

Evaluation

- Attendance: 5 absences without prior notice will result in an F grade
- In the event of a personal emergency (a medical problem or family issue, etc.), please notify the instructor via e-mail
- Students' attendance status will be reported to the International Center every week
- During the semester, students will receive two current grade status reports before final grade
- Students with any questions or concerns about their grade will have a chance to discuss and review all components of their grading
- Grade Breakdown: Attendance 10 %, Discussion 10 %, Midterm 20 %, Team Presentation 20 %, Final Paper 30 %, Final Examination 20 %

Notes:

Course Schedule

1/24 Course Orientation

- *Syllabus Overview*
- *Discussing Image of Japan: From Samurai to Anime*
- *How to Establish Historical Perspective: Fact vs. Interpretation*

✓ Organizing the Presentation Team A, B, C, and D

1/26 Welcome to the Sun Empire

- *Amaterasu the Sun Goddess*
- *Creating Japan Identity Independent from Sinocentrism*
- *Modern Symbolism of the Japanese Solar Mythology*

1/31 Kansai the Heart of Medieval Japan

- *Nara the First Kingdom*
- *Noble Life in Kyoto*
- *Meaning of Kyoto to Modern Japan*

✓ Presentation Proposal Deadline

2/2 Age of Fighting Heroes

- *Beginning of shogunal Power: Kamakura and Muromachi*
- *Civil War and Warlords*
- *Road to the Unification: Three Heroes*
- *Hideyoshi's Invasion of Korea*
- *Creating Local Identity*

2/7 Osaka the Kitchen of Japan

- *Hideyoshi's Strong Hold*
- *Osaka the Commercial Outpost*
- *Land of Comedy*

2/9 Edo Built on Sushi

- *Tokugawa Ieyasu's Triumph*
- *Building Edo the New Capital*
- *Rise of Popular Culture: Ukiyoe and Kabuki*
- *Suppressing Local Domains*

2/14 Students' Midterm Presentation

- *Culture and History of Nara, Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo*

✓ Early Course Evaluation

✓ Shuffling Teams

2/16 Midterm Examination

2/21 Birth of Imperial Japan

- *Last Samurai*
- *Meiji Restoration*
- *Way of the Colonial Empire*

2/23 Pearl Harbor and the Space Battle Ship Yamato

- ✓ *From Pearl Harbor to Iwo Jima*
- ✓ *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*
- ✓ *Imperial Army's Militarism*
- ✓ *Death of Yamato and Revival to the Space Battle Ship*

✓ Achievement Report 1

2/28 Myths and Truths of Samurai Spirit

- *Nitobe Inazo's Samurai Ethics*

- *Invented Tradition for Ideology*
- *Samurai on the Real World*

✓ *Final Paper Proposal Deadline*

3/2 Under the American Umbrella

- *Unforgettable Hiroshima and Nagasaki*
- *GHQ and MacArthur*
- *Japan-US Security Arrangement*
- *Recovering Japan*

3/7 Spring Break

3/9 Spring Break

3/14 Discussion Session

- *Meaning of Modernization*
- *Industrialization, Westernization, and Imperialism*

✓ *Shuffling Teams*

3/16 Quantum Leap in Economic Transformation

- *Dankai Generation*
- *Olympic and Expo the Development Formula*
- *Showa Memories*

3/21 Holiday

3/23 Minority in Japan

- *Zainichi the Scarlet Letter*
- *Passport from Okinawa*
- *Ainu's tears*

✓ *Achievement Report 2*

3/28 Success Stories of Japanese Companies

- *Japanese Way of Business*
- *Legend of 'Made in Japan'*

3/30 Time in Bubble

- *Plaza Accord*
- *Busted Bubble Economy*
- *Into the Lost Decade*

4/4 No Class (AAS Conference)

4/6 Shade of Development

- *Farmers' Rage Against Narita Airport*
- *Helpless Youngsters – A Japanese Guy Killed in Iraq*

4/ 11 Aging Japan

- *Less Children More Seniors*
- *Endangered Social Security*
- *Isolation and Vanishing of Seniors*

4/13 Changing Government

- *Long Domination of Liberal Democratic Party*
- *Leadership in Question*
- *Democratic Party's Reform*

4/18 Twisted Relationship with East Asia

- *Tension with Korea for Takeshima/ Dokto*
- *Conflict with China Senkakujima/Diaoyu*
- *Deal with Russia on the Northern Territories*

4/20 Discussion Session

- *What should Japan do to come back to the global power position?*
- ✓ *Shuffling Teams*

4/25 Animation Paradise

- *Paradigm-Changing Akira*
- *Studio Ghibli's domination*
- *Origin of Japanese Creativity*
- ✓ *Achievement Report 3*

4/27 New Life Line of Japanese Industry

- *World Leading Robotics Technology*
- *Spreading Global Otaku*

5/2 Reconciling with Asia

- *Democratic Party's New Perspective on History*
- *Dealing with Past Issues*

5/4 Golden Week

5/9 Globalization in Japan

- *Education Reform in Japan*
- *Global 30*
- *Recruiting the International*
- *Challenge of OGU*
- ✓ *Paper Due*

5/11 Closing Discussion

- *Japan in Your Mind*
- *Life Changing Experience in Japan*
- ✓ *Official Class Evaluation*

5/16 No Class

5/18 Final Examination