

Japan: The Modern Age

Reading: Mikiso Hane, *Peasants, Rebels, Women, and Outcastes*
Yasunari Kawabata, *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa*
E.B. Sledge, *With the Old Breed*
John W. Dower, *Embracing Defeat*
Oyama Shiro, *a man with no talents*
Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan* (recommended)

Requirements: Two 5-page essays (20% each), a midterm examination (25%),
class participation (10%), and an end-of-term examination (25%).

Office Hours: 2-3 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and by appointment, in 327
McKenzie Hall. Email: hanes@uoregon.edu; Phone: 6-4837.

Learning Objectives:

- To explore the different visions/versions of modernity that Japan has pursued since the mid-19th century
- To utilize primary and secondary historical sources
- To balance ideas and evidence in the development of historical interpretation
- To write clearly, cogently, and critically

Week One. Endings and New Beginnings.

April 4. Internal Troubles/External Threat.
April 6. Meiji Restoration and Meiji Nation-State.

Reading: Hane, xi-49.
Show-and-Tell: Tu. Perry Expedition Narrative.
Th. Edo to Tokyo (maps).

Week Two. Modernization as Westernization.

April 11. Civilization and Enlightenment.
April 13. Rich Country/Strong Army.

Reading: Hane, 50-136.
Show-and-Tell: Tu. Meiji Prints and Photography; Japonisme.
Th. S-J and R-J War Prints; Meiji Monument.

Week Three. Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism.

April 18. What Defines Modernity? Film: "Dai Osaka Kankô."

April 20. Giant Catfish and Combustible Houses. **Hane Essay Due.**

Reading: Begin Kawabata, *Scarlet Gang of Asakusa*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Ethics Textbooks, Period Cartoons, Expos.

Th. Kanto Quake; Nosatsu (Knight); Kon Wajiro.

Week Four. Interwar Cultures.

April 25. Ero-Guro-Nansensu. Film: "Osaka Elegy."

April 27. Colonialism(s). Film Clip: "Sandakan 8."

Reading: Hane, 137-205.

Complete Kawabata, *Scarlet Gang*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Modan Material Culture

Th. Colonial Portraits; Sandakan 8; Brothels.

Week Five. Formal and Informal Empires.

May 2. Bravado: Young Turks and Young Officers.

May 4. The Clash. Film: "Hidden Internment."

Reading: Hane, 206-292.

Begin Sledge, *With the Old Breed*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Popular Wartime Songs.

Th. Revisionist History and Pearl Harbor.

Week Six. War Without Mercy.

May 9. **MIDTERM EXAMINATION.**

May 11. Enemies and Innocents. Film Clips: "War in the Pacific."

Reading: Complete Sledge, *With the Old Breed*.

Show-and-Tell: Th. Newspaper Clippings, Maps, Battlefield Notes.

Week Seven. Apocalypse and Aftermath.

May 16. Bombs and Brutality. Film Clips: "Grave of the Fireflies" and
"The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On."

May 18. Occupation and Occupationnaires. Film Clip: "Our Job in Japan."

Reading: Begin Dower, *Embracing Defeat*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Overcoming Modernity; Children & Fire Bombs.

Th. Newspaper Clippings; Occupation Postcards.

Week Eight. The Bright Life.

May 23. Japan's American Revolution!? Film Clip: "Ohayo"

May 25. Urbanization and the New Middle Class. Film: "Family Game."

Reading: Complete Dower, *Embracing Defeat*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Constitution; Home Economics Textbook;
Ginza Signboards; Showa Daily; Dependents
Housing.

Week Nine. The Long Postwar Era.

May 30. The Postwar Economic Miracle. Film Clip: "Giants and Toys."

June 1. The Bubble Economy. Film Clip: "A Taxing Woman."

Dower Essay Due.

Reading: Hane, 295-320.

Begin Oyama, *a man with no talents*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Economic Miracle Lit; Postwar Auto Pics.
Postwar Japanese Prints; *Life Magazine* (1964).

Th. Crystal Tribes and Otaku.

Week Ten. The Lost Decades.

June 6. Is Japan a Disaster?

June 8. 21st Century Japan: Utopia, Dystopia, or Eutopia

Reading: Finish Oyama, *a man with no talents*.

Show-and-Tell: Tu. Cultists and Recluses; Great Hanshin Quake.

Th. Japanese Photos of 3/11

Exam Week. Thinking Caps On.

Assignment: **End-of-Term Take Home Exam due by Wednesday, June 14.**