

ASIA 220 CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

Fall 2004

Instructor: Duncan Kerkham

Office Hours: 2:30 – 3:30 Mon. and Wed. or by appointment.

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Course Description:

An introduction to contemporary Japanese society using social, economic, and political history, and emphasizing the political economy of modern Japan. It includes the adaptation of Western liberal, democratic, political structures; the impact of social change; the generation of the “economic miracle” post-WWII; and the evolving role of Japan internationally.

Text:

Hane, Mikiso. *Modern Japan: A Historical Survey*. Third Edition.

Additional readings will be recommended during the course.

Evaluation:

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|----------------------|-----|
| Two in-class quizzes | 10% |
| Mid-term | 20% |
| Term paper | 30% |
| Final exam | 40% |

The quizzes will consist of matching and short identification questions. The mid-term and final exams will consist of matching, short identification and a choice of essay questions.

Term paper:

Each student is required to complete a formal research paper. Please go to the Writing Center for information on format and plagiarism. The paper will be eight to twelve double-spaced, typewritten pages with footnotes and a bibliography to show your sources. A list of topics will be handed out after the first week of classes. The completed paper is due November 25, 2004. Papers will be devalued five percent per day for every day late and will not be accepted after December 9, 2004.

Course Outline:

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| Sept. | 7 | Introduction |
| | 9 | Geography and beginnings. Ch. 1 – 2. |
| | 14 – 16 | Tokugawa. Ch. 3 – 4. |
| | 21 – 23 | Meiji: Politics. Ch. 5 – 6. |
| | 28 | Quiz: Ch. 1 – 6. |
| | 28 – 30 | Meiji: Economy. Ch. 7. |
| Oct. | 5 – 7 | Meiji: Society and Culture. Ch. 8. |
| | 12 | Empire. Ch. 9. |
| | 13 | Review and discussion. |

- 19 Mid-term exam.
- 21 Parliament. Ch. 10 – 11.
- 26 – 28 The military and war. Ch. 12 – 13 – 14.
- Nov. 2 Quiz. Ch. 10 – 14.
- 2 – 4 The economy and the GNP race. Ch. 15 – 16.
- 9 Sports
- 16 – 18 Samurai: Myth and reality.
- 23 – 25 The new political/economic/military structure
- 25 Term papers due.
- 30 – 2 Japanese Women: Myth and reality.
- Dec. 7 Education.
- 9 Review.

Final Exam: TBA.