

# **History 3606F**

## **Japan and its Empire, 1868-1945: A Rising and Setting Sun**

**Fall 2023**

Instructor: **Dr. Carl Young**

Email: **cyoung73@uwo.ca**

This is a **draft** syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

### **Course Description**

Increasing Western incursions and domestic revolution led by young lower level samurai led to the Meiji Restoration in 1868. The young revolutionaries did not have much invested in the structures of the previous Tokugawa shogunate and were also deeply concerned about maintaining Japan's independence in a new international order dominated by Western imperial powers. The new regime focussed on creating new economic and political structures, often inspired from Western models, in order to strengthen Japan and show other powers that it was an engaged player in the 19<sup>th</sup> century international system. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Japan had a new political structure that combined traditional and Western features and had become the first country in Asia to industrialise. Japan also modernised its military and defeated regional rivals, becoming the only non-Western imperial power. By the end of World War I, Japan was recognised as one of the Great Powers and actively participated in new international institutions. Domestically, politicians also became more powerful and the 1920's was an era of liberal internationalist democracy in Japan. The inability of politicians to cope with economic crisis in the early 1930's and an increasingly assertive military in both domestic and foreign affairs led to a renewed push of imperialism in the 1930's. This eventually led to the Pacific theatre of World War II in the 1940's and Japan's disastrous defeat after lightning gains in the beginning of the war. By 1945, Japan became the first country subjected to nuclear attack, and was forced to surrender in a state of total devastation. However, the legacy of this period endures to this day and provided a foundation for Japan's miraculous reconstruction after World War II.

The purpose of the course will be to investigate developments in the history of Japan and its empire between 1868 and 1945. Topics will include political and economic reforms followed by the Meiji regime and its impact on Japanese culture and society; the process of Japan's early imperial expansion and the impact on both Japan and its new colonies; the growing power of democratic institutions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; the reasons for the rise of the military and renewed imperial expansion in the 1930's and 1940's and the impact on Japan and its empire; and the legacy of this period for modern Japan and the wider Asia-Pacific region.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- assess the interaction between political, social, economic, cultural, and international factors in the development of Japan between 1868 and 1945

- explain the characteristics of different political regimes in Japan between 1868 and 1945 and their impact on Japan and the surrounding Asia-Pacific region
- Analyze primary and secondary sources on select topics in the history of Japan between 1868 and 1945 through both oral discussion and written work
- Present findings and views from readings through oral presentations
- Synthesise primary and secondary sources to produce a research paper

**Prerequisite(s):** 1.0 course at the 2200 level

**Antirequisite(s):** The former History 3603E

## Course Materials

### Required Texts

Wm Theodore de Bary et al, *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Volume Two: Part Two, 1868 to 2000* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006)

Selected readings available on the course OWL site]

### **Methods of Evaluation**

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Term Paper (around 10-15 pages)          | 30%        |
| 3 Article Analyses (4-6 pages: 15% each) | 45%        |
| 1 Oral Presentation                      | 10%        |
| Discussion Participation                 | <u>15%</u> |
|  | 100%       |

The term paper will be a research paper on a topic of your choice in the history of Japan between 1868 and 1945. Suggested topics will be handed out early in the beginning of the semester. The suggested length of the papers will be approximately 10-15 pages. The paper will due on **Nov. 14**.

The three article/document analyses will be based around the readings for each class. During the semester, students will choose any **3** of the articles or documents assigned and write a 4-6 page paper each on the articles. These papers are **due on the day of the relevant seminar in which the particular reading is assigned. This assignment will not normally be accepted late. The 1st article analysis, on readings between Sept. 19 and Oct. 3, must be done by Oct. 3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> article analysis, on readings between**

**Oct. 10 and Oct. 24, must be done by Oct. 24. The 3<sup>rd</sup> article analysis, on readings between Nov. 7 and Dec. 5, must be done by Dec. 5.** This assignment is more than merely a summary. The main purpose of the paper is to bring forth the main issues of the article or series of documents, discuss how the author(s) bring forth their point of view, and also analyze the effectiveness of the readings in conveying information and opinion, as well as their contribution to the topic under discussion in the particular seminar.

Students will also be required to do **1** oral presentation in the course of the semester. These will be based on the articles and documents assigned as readings for the seminar. A sign-up sheet will be passed around in the beginning of the semester. This will involve a brief 10-15 minute presentation on the reading in question, which will include a brief summary of the reading and the launching of questions for discussion.

This is a seminar course and the success of the seminar depends a lot on keeping up with the readings, attendance in class, and participation in discussion. It is for this reason that 15% of the course mark depends on seminar participation. Roll will be taken in each class and students will be given marks for participation in the discussions. For each class, students will be marked on a scale of 1 to 5 for each class and at the end of the semester, the marks will be added together to give an overall participation mark.

If you should have any questions pertaining to the structure or content of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me during my office hours, or by phone or e-mail to make an appointment.

### **Lateness and Absence Policy**

The term paper will be accepted late. However, there will be a penalty of 2% a day that will be applied for every day the paper is late, including weekends and holidays.

For assignments worth more than 10% of the mark, in case of family emergency, medical, or compassionate grounds, penalties can be removed from assignments or exams can be rescheduled by undergoing the processes laid out by your home faculty's Academic Counseling office. Please refer to the following links for more information:

- Social Science Academic Counselling on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#)
- University policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#)
- Department of History [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)

For accommodation for work worth less than 10% of the mark, please contact the instructor for an appointment.

If you do hand in your assignment late, please hand it in to the wooden drop-off box outside the History Department office at Lawson Hall. The staff will pick up the assignment and stamp it with a date and time and put it in my mailbox. This provides greater security and clarity for the handing in of the assignment. Please avoid shoving the paper under my office door if at all possible, because it could get lost.

## Course Schedule and Readings

### History 3606G—Japan and Its Empire—Readings—Sept.-Dec. 2023

#### Sept. 12—Introduction

#### Sept. 19—The Meiji Restoration and Early Meiji Reforms

*SJT2*, p. 5-29 (Chapter 35—“The Meiji Restoration”)

T. Fujitani, “From Court in Motion to Capitals” in T. Fujitani, *Splendid Monarchy: Power and Pageantry in Modern Japan* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999), 30-92 (available on the course OWL site)

Mark J. Ravina, “The Apocryphal Suicide of Saigō Takamori: Samurai, *Seppuku*, and the Politics of Legend”, *Journal of Asian Studies* Vol. 69, No. 3 (August 2010), p. 691-721 (available on the course OWL site)

#### Sept. 26—Constitutional and Political Debate in Meiji Japan

*SJT2*, p. 52-80 (Chapter 37—“Popular Rights and Constitutionalism”)

Takii Kazuhiro, “Ito Hirobumi’s European Research: From Constitution as Law to Constitution as National Structure” in Takii Kazuhiro, *The Meiji Constitution: The Japanese Experience of the West and the Shaping of the Modern State* (Tokyo: International House of Japan, 2007), p. 49-89 (available on the course OWL site)

E. Taylor Atkins, “Popular culture as subject and object in Meiji modernization” in E. Taylor Atkins, *A History of Popular Culture in Japan: From the Seventeenth Century to the Present* (London, UK: Bloomsbury, 2017), p. 79-100 (available on the course OWL site)

#### Oct. 3—Society, Economy, and Education in Meiji Japan

*SJT2*, p. 82-116 (Chapter 38—“Education in Meiji Japan”)

Mara Patessio, “Female Students and Teachers in Public and Private Schools” in Mara Patessio, *Women and Public Life in Early Meiji Japan: The Development of the Feminist Movement* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011), p. 33-70 (available on the course OWL site)

James L. McClain, “Toward an Industrial Future” in James L. McClain, *Japan: A Modern History* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2002), p. 207-245 (available on the course OWL site)

\*\*\*\*\**Last chance to hand in 1<sup>st</sup> article analysis—Oct. 3*\*\*\*\*\*

### **Oct. 10— Domestic Politics and Imperial Expansion: 1890-1910**

Alexis Dudden, “The Vocabulary of Power” in Alexis Dudden, *Japan’s Colonization of Korea: Discourse and Power* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005), p. 45-73 (available on the course OWL site)

Judith Frohlich, “Pictures of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895”, *War in History*, Vol 21 (2) (2014), p. 214-250 (available on the course OWL site)

S.C.M. Paine, “The Russo-Japanese War” in S.C.M. Paine, *The Japanese Empire: Grand Strategy from the Meiji Restoration to the Pacific War* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2017), p. 49-75 (available on the course OWL site)

### **Oct. 17-- Taishō Democracy and Empire**

Sōchi Naraoka, “A New Look at Japan’s Twenty-One Demands: Reconsidering Katō Takaaki’s Motives in 1915” in Tosh Minohara, Tze-ki Hon, and Evan Dawley (eds.), *The Decade of the Great War: Japan and the Wider World in the 1910s* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), p. 189-210 (available on the course OWL site)

Frederick R. Dickinson, “World Power” in Frederick R. Dickinson, *World War I and the Triumph of a New Japan, 1919-1930* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2013), p. 124-143 (available on the course OWL site)

*SJT2*, p. 148-192 (Selected from Chapter 40—“The High Tide of Pre-war Liberalism”)

### **Oct. 24— Life in the Empire in the 1920’s and 1930’s**

Jun Uchida, “The Discourse on Korea and Koreans” in Jun Uchida, *Brokers of Empire: Japanese Settler Colonialism in Korea, 1876-1945* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2011), p. 188-226 (available on the course OWL site)

Komagome Takeshi, “Colonial Modernity for an Elite Taiwanese, Lim Bo-seng: The Labyrinth of Cosmopolitanism” in Liao Ping-hui & David Der-wei Wang, *Taiwan under Japanese Colonial Rule, 1895-1945* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006), p. 141-159

Tessa Morris-Suzuki, “Northern Lights: The Making and Unmaking of Karafuto Identity”, *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 60, No. 3 (August 2001), p. 645-671

\*\*\*\*\**Last chance to hand in 2<sup>nd</sup> article analysis—Oct. 24*\*\*\*\*\*

Oct. 30-Nov. 5—Fall Reading Week—No class

### **Nov. 7— The Rise of Militarism**

Danny Orbach, “Cherry Blossom: From Resistance to Rebellion, 1931” in Danny Orbach, *Curse on this Country: The Rebellious Army of Imperial Japan* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2017), p. 193-224 (available on the course OWL site)

Annika A. Culver, “Reflections of Labour and the Construction of a New State: Fuchikami Hakuyō and *Manchuria Graph*” in Annika A. Culver, *Glorify the Empire: Japanese Avant-Garde Propaganda in Manchukuo* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2013), p. 100-133 (available on the course OWL site)

Kate McDonald, “Local Color” in Kate McDonald, *Placing Empire: Travel and the Social Imagination in Imperial Japan* (Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 2017), p. 103-134 (available on the course OWL site)

**Nov. 14— Marxism and the Revolutionary Right** (those who sign up for a presentation for this week will receive a 1 week extension for the term paper to Nov. 21)

*SJT2*, p. 239-259 (Selected from Chapter 41—“Socialism and the Left”)

*SJT2*, p. 260-287 (Chapter 42—“The Rise of Revolutionary Nationalism”)

Jennifer Cullen, “A Comparative Study of Tenkō: Sata Ineko and Miyamoto Yuriko”, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 36, No. 1 (Winter 2010), p. 65-96 (available on the course OWL site)

\*\*\*\*\**Term Paper due—Nov. 14*\*\*\*\*\*

### **Nov. 21— Empire and War**

*SJT2*, p. 288-319 (Chapter 43—“Empire and War”)

Eri Hotta, “The War of ‘World Historical Significance’” in Eri Hotta, *Pan-Asianism and Japan’s War, 1931-1945* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 177-197 (available on the course OWL site)

Nicholas Tarling, “War and Peace” in Nicholas Tarling, *A Sudden Rampage: The Japanese Occupation of Southeast Asia, 1941-1945* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2001), p. 80-124 (available on the course OWL site)

### **Nov. 28— Zenith: Life in the Japanese Wartime Empire**

Ellen Schattschneider, “The Bloodstained Doll: Violence and the Gift in Wartime Japan”, *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 31:2 (2005), p. 329-356 (available on the course OWL site)

Jeremy Yellen, “A New Deal for Greater East Asia?” in Jeremy Yellen, *The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere: When Total Empire Met Total War* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2019), p. 141-168 (available on the course OWL site)

Satoshi Ara, “Collaboration and Resistance: Catalino Hermosilla and the Japanese Occupation of Ormoc, Leyte (1942-1945)”, *Philippine Studies: Historical and Ethnographic Viewpoints*, Vol. 60, No. 1 (March 2012), 33-68 (available on the course OWL site)

### **Dec. 5— Nadir: Defeat and the Legacy of the Japanese Empire**

“Lost Battles” and “The Slaughter of an Army” in Haruko Taya Cook & Theodore F. Cooke, *Japan at War: An Oral History* (New York: The New Press, 1992), p. 261-292 (available on the course OWL site)

Richard B. Frank, “Ketsu Gō: Japanese Political and Military Strategy in 1945” in Tsuyoshi Hasegawa (ed.), *The End of the Pacific War: Reappraisals* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2007), p. 65-94 (available on the course OWL site)

Daniel Sneider, “Interrupted Memories: The Debate over Wartime Memory in Northeast Asia” in Daniel Chirot, Gi-wook Shin, and Daniel Sneider (eds.), *Confronting Memories of World War II: European and Asian Legacies* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014), p. 45-76 (available on the course OWL site)

\*\*\*\*\**Last chance to hand in 3<sup>rd</sup> article analysis—Dec. 5*\*\*\*\*\*

### **Additional Statements**

**Communication policies:** E-mail is generally the easiest way to contact me for short questions. I will endeavour to answer within the day, although there may be delays on weekends and holidays in particular. You can also ask short questions during the class lecture breaks. For longer enquiries, please drop by during my office hours at my office. If you are unable to come

to my normal office hours, please contact me to set up an alternative appointment, either in person or through Zoom. For general class announcements, I use the “Announcements” feature on OWL, so please check frequently on OWL to keep track of latest class developments.

***Use of generative AI tools:*** All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

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