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HIST 381.01: History of Modern Japan

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History of Modern Japan, H381
Fall 2001, TR 11:00-12:30, GLL 119
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The Course Objectives Are to Acquire:

- Command of the sequence of major events and key historical figures connected with them, and core issues in modern Japanese history
- Analytical skills to explain the complex meanings in Japanese life, extending beyond the familiar divides between word pairs such as “tradition/modernity” and “East/West”
- Appreciation for vastly different experiences and memories of war and their impact on our understanding of human and international conflict (focus on the Pacific theatre of World War II)
- Curiosity to use Japan’s experience and struggle with modernity as a mirror to our own

<u>Course Requirements :</u>	Attendance	10
	Midterm	30
	Paper	20
	Final	<u>40</u>
	Total	100

Attendance will be taken by signing your name on a sheet of paper in class beginning September 11. The midterm and final exam combine objective and essay questions. There are two options for the paper:

Option A: The general theme for this essay is “International Conflict in Modern Japanese History.” It is to be based on two books used in the class, Endo’s Silence and the oral histories in the book by the Cooks. Your task is to contrast and compare two major turning points in Japan’s history since 1600. The first is the Tokugawa expulsion of Western missionaries and merchants in the early 17th century, as seen in Endo’s novel. The second is the Asia Pacific War (WWII), beginning with the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and ending with the bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki in August 1945. Although Matthew Perry’s “opening” of Japan in 1853 and the Meiji wars that follow are also major turning points, the essay is not focused on these conflicts. Here are some questions to help you organize your thoughts. How are the historical contexts different? What are the roots of the two conflicts? How is the system of international relations and the sophistication of military technology used in the conflicts different? How do the conflicts end? And what conclusions or observations can you make about the nature of Japan’s relations with and responses to the West since 1600?

Option B is a review essay comparing the figures of two women growing up in the prewar

period, Chiyo-san as a geisha in Arthur Golden's Memories of a Geisha and Hatsue (and her family, friends, and neighbors) in David Guterson's Snow Falling on Cedars, as a Japanese American growing up on Pudget Sound. This option will cost some extra money. But because they are best selling historical novels and good entertainment, I think the cost can be justified. One could read both as studies in the lives of Japanese women a half century ago. Their value may be just as strong for their portrait of the textures of daily life. As good reading the characters should leap from the pages and suggest themes that go beyond the usual contrasts and comparisons when writing review essays. You can buy these popular books in the local bookstores or order them on the internet. If there is sufficient interest, we could order some quantities of the books through the UC bookstore.

All papers are due November 27, right after the Thanksgiving break. There will be no extensions except for medical reasons, signed by a healthcare provider. A half point will be deducted from the paper grade for each day the paper is turned in late. Your papers should be at least 7-8 pages long, manuscript style, no more than 10 pages. A longer paper is not necessarily a stronger paper. The two criteria used in grading the paper are: quality of writing, that is correct grammar and spelling and cleanness; and quality of your ideas. Do not turn in a first draft. It can be spotted immediately.

Books to Buy:

1. Boyle, John Hunter, Modern Japan, The American Nexus, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993, (reproduced as a FacPac in the bookstore)
2. Endo, Shusaku, Silence [translated by William Johnston], Taplinger, 1980
3. Terkel, Studs, "The Good War", An Oral History of World War Two, Ballantine, 1984
4. Haruko Haya and Theodore F. Cook, Japan at War: An Oral History, Pantheon?, 1992
5. Plath, David W., Long Engagements: Maturity in Modern Japan, Stanford, 1980

In addition to these readings, I have placed some required materials on closed reserve. They can be accessed electronically on the web: <http://eres.lib.umd.edu>, under West or History 381. See page at end of syllabus for instructions to eres.

1. Endo, Shusaku, The Golden Country (a play version of the novel, Silence, 1970), 9-16, 116-128
2. Bloom, Irene, "The *Analects* of Confucius, Then and Now," in Carol Gluck, ed., et. al., Asia in Western and World History, M. E. Sharpe, 1997, pp. 295-308.
3. Nelson, John, "Social Memory as Moral and Ritual Practice: Commemorating Spirits at a Shinto Shrine for the Military Dead," in Philip West, et. al., sampler for "Japan America Dialogue on the Asia Pacific War," June 2000, pp. 194-218.
4. A few more e-res readings will be added at the end of the course

Course Schedule

Sep 4 T	1. Overview of the Course	
Sep 6 R	2. Land and People	Read: Boyle, 1-46; Endo, <i>Silence</i>
Sep 11 T	3. Tokugawa "Religion" and the "Mudswamp" thesis (Dramatic reading of Endo)	Read: Endo, <i>The Golden Country</i> (e-res); A good website on Tokugawa Japan is www.japan-guide.com/e/e2128.html (Tokugawa or Edo Period, 1603-1868)
Sep 13 R	4. Tokugawa Politics and Culture	Read: Bloom, "The <i>Analects</i> of ...Confucius..." (e-res); see above website for Tokugawa art/aesthetics
Sep 18 T	5. The West Comes to Japan	Read: Boyle, 48-77
Sep 20 R	6. Film: "Meiji: Asia's Response to the West"	Read: Boyle, 78-121
Sep 25 T	7. The State and Imperialism in Meiji Japan	Read: Boyle, 122-165
Sep 27 R	8. Liberalism, 1920s, and Militarism, 1930s	Read: Boyle, 166-200. Start reading Cook, 3-68. After reading, <i>Japan At War</i> , select ten of the oral histories you like best, reread those, and be prepared to integrate them into your writing for the midterm and final
Oct 2 T	9. The China War, 1937-1945	Read: Terkel, 1-104 (only the Pacific War stories). As you read Terkel, <i>"The Good War"</i> , select ten of the histories you like best, review them and be prepared to integrate them into your writing in the

		midterm and final
Oct 4 R	10. Pearl Harbor	Read: Cook 169-258
Oct 9 T	11. Midterm	
Oct 11 T	11. The Japanese Homeland	Read: Terkel, 105-193 (only the Pacific War Stories)
Oct 18 R	14. Lost Battles	Read: Cook, 259-336; Terkel, 194-296 (only the Pacific War stories) View Exhibit, "Imaging War..." in the Molloy Gallery, and attend one of the keynote addresses for the Mansfield Conference, "Experiencing War..." (details later)
Oct 23 T	15. 100,000,000 Die Together	Read: Cook, 337-400; Terkel, 297-386 (only the Pacific War stories)
Oct 25 R	16. Hiroshima	Read: Boyle, 275-302; Cook 401-479
Oct 30 T	17. The War in American Memory	Read: Terkel, 387-576 (only the Pacific War stories)
Nov 1 R	18. Embracing Defeat	Read: John Dower, <u>Embracing Defeat</u> , ... (e-res)
Nov 6 T	19. The Yasukuni Shrine	Read: John Nelson, "Social Memory..." (e-res)
Nov 8 R	20. Film: "Reinventing Japan"	Boyle: 303-351
Nov 13 T	21. "Economic Miracle"	Boyle: 352-380
Nov 15 R	22. "Pure Action" and Japanese Men Today	Read: Plath, 1-76
Nov 20 T	23. "Human Feeling" and Japanese Men Today	Read: Plath, 77-125

Nov 27 T	24. "The Good Woman" and Japanese Women <u>Paper is due</u>	Read: Plath, 126-171
Nov 29 R	25. "Modern Japanese Women"	Read: Plath, 171-212
Dec 4 T	26. Japan and the United States	Read: Boyle, 381-410; selected website page (to be announced)
Dec 6 R	27. Longevity and Maturity in Japan	Read: Plath, 213-227; selected website page
Dec 11 T	Japan and East Asia, The Textbook Controversy	Selected website pages
Dec 13 R	The Kyoto Protocol, the Environment and Other Issues	Other website pages
Dec 18	Review	
Dec 10	Final Exam 10:10-12:10	