



**Douglas
College**

Division:

Effective Date:

Department /
Program Area:

Revision

New Course

If Revision, Section(s)
Revised:

Date of Previous Revision:

MAY 1995

Date of Current Revision:

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Subject & Course No.	Descriptive Title	Semester Credits
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Calendar Description:

This course deals with modern Japanese history from the end of the Tokugawa era to the present. After considering briefly Japanese geography, language, and cultural traditions, the course concentrates on the late nineteenth-century transformation of the state and society, the military adventures of the early twentieth century, and the sources of the economic “miracle” after 1945. Topics include the domestication of the samurai ethic, the Meiji Restoration, the military ascendancy of the 1

At the end of the course the student will have demonstrated the following skills:

1. The critical examination of historical sources (reading history). These sources include not only survey texts and articles, but also short monographs and extended primary sources.
2. The creation and communication of personal interpretations of historical problems (writing history). Forms for communication of personal interpretations include annotated bibliographies, medium-length essays (from 1500-3000 words), comparative book reviews, and three-hour final examinations.
3. The independent analysis of the ideas of other students and the instructor in class in both tutorials and seminars (discussing history).

Note: Content may vary according to the instructor's selection of topics.

Introduction

1. Review of Historical Terms and Methods
2. Research Strategies for a Major Paper
3. Historiography

Japanese Civilization: An Overview

4. Language
5. Traditions: Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism
6. Samurai and Bushido
7. Floating World: Art and Literature of the Tokugawa Era
8. Western Intrusion and the Collapse of the Bakufu

Meiji

9. Restoration
10. Modernization: the Economy
11. Modernization: the Military
12. Education and Culture
13. Mid-term Examination

Military Empire

14. Foreign Policy and Wars: China, Russia, and Korea
15. Changing Roles of Women (DISC)
16. Showa and the Great Depression
17. Military Ascendancy
18. Road to Pearl Harbour
19. War and Surrender from Japan's Side

Economic Pre-eminence

20. Occupation
21. Economic Miracle?
22. "1955 System": Liberal Democratic Party and Conservative Predominance
23. "San Francisco System": Japanese-American Relations
24. Education as Tool for National Advancement
25. Struggle for Public Memory: War Crimes, textbooks, and Politics.
26. Liberation of Women?
27. End of "Postwar"

An examination of a series of problems in the history of modern Japan will give the student ample opportunity to practice and improve these skills. (See objectives.)

Class sessions will be divided between lectures and discussions. The discussion sessions will serve as a forum for the exchange of student relations and criticisms and as a testing ground for student hypotheses. By acting as referee and devil's advocate, the instructor will encourage the student to elaborate, refine, and revise his/her ideas. Participation in class discussions is therefore essential.

Texts will be chosen from the following list:

Gluck, C., ed. Showa: The Japan of Hirohito. New York: Norton, 1992.

Gordon, A., ed. Postwar Japan as History. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Kingston, J. Japan in Transformation, 1952 - 2000. Toronto: Longman, 2001.

Lu, D.J., ed. Sources of Japanese History. Vol. 2. 2nd ed. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1997.

McClain, J.L. Japan, A Modern History. New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2002.

Pyle, K.B. The Making of Modern Japan. 2nd ed. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1996.

Totman, C.D. A History of Japan

No.

Course Designer(s): F. Leonard