

Sophia University – January Session 2024

January 10th – January 31st, 2024 *January 10th: Orientation

Date: July 19, 2023

Course Title	Modern History of Japan
Course Code	HSZ200
Instructor	Collin Rusneac
Class Period	2 nd Period (10:55-12:35)
Course Format	In-Person
Language of Instruction	English
Course Description	<p>This survey course introduces students to nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japanese history. The course covers politics, society, thought and diplomacy in Japan by focusing predominantly on the tumultuous domestic conflicts and imperialist pressures which produced the Meiji Restoration and the major transformations and developments that followed in its aftermath. The course also explores the first half of the twentieth century, a time marked by social instability, foreign aggression, wartime destruction and economic recovery. Finally, the course ends with an overview of Japan's position in the international arena and its relations with its East-Asian neighbors.</p> <p>The course is primarily lecture-based, but some time is devoted to discussions and group work.</p> <p>The course is delivered in-person. Any changes pertaining to class format will be announced in the 'Announcements' forum on Moodle. Please make sure to check your account regularly.</p> <p>All classes will be conducted in English.</p>
Course Objectives	By the end of the course, students should be familiar with important events in modern Japanese history, as well with important processes that take place nationally and globally during that time. Students will also have a framework for understanding Japanese society during the modern period.
Expected work outside of class	The course requires students to do mandatory daily readings. These could take between 1-2 hours, depending on the individual.
Course Materials	All class material – mandatory and optional readings – will be uploaded on Moodle. The main text for the course is Andrew Gordon's <i>A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present</i> , 3rd edition 2014 (ISBN: 9780199930159); 4th edition 2019 (ISBN:

	9780190920555); International edition, 2020 (ISBN: 9780197507339
Moodle	2024 Winter Session: Modern History of Japan
Contact Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • via Moodle message • via Email: collin_rusneac@sophia.ac.jp
Evaluation (Attendance, Class participation, in-class assignments, final exam, quizzes, etc.)	<p>Students' grades will be determined based on the following criteria:</p> <p>Attendance + Participation: 30% + 10%</p> <p>Weekly Writing Assignments (3): 60%</p> <p>Attendance is mandatory. You can improve your attendance grade by actively participating in class discussions and by demonstrating that you have done the assigned readings.</p> <p>Students will have to write three (3) assignments. These will be 4-to-5-page-essays reflecting on any themes or topics discussed prior to the due date. The essays will be individual critical pieces which reveal your engagement with the course material, such as your mandatory or optional readings or any form of media introduced in class. You can pick an event, a place or a person and discuss the significance of your subject in Japanese modern history.</p>
Class schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *January 10: Orientation *January 12: No-class day [DAY 1] INTRODUCTION [DAY 2] THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (I) [DAY 3] THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (II) [DAY 4] JAPAN AND ASIA, 1600-1850 [DAY 5] THE MEIJI 'REVOLUTION' BEGINS [DAY 6] THE MEIJI 'REVOLUTION' CONTINUES [DAY 7] MODERNIZATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION, WESTERNIZATION [DAY 8] THE JAPANESE COLONIAL EMPIRE I [DAY 9] THE JAPANESE COLONIAL EMPIRE II [DAY 10] THE ASIA-PACIFIC WAR BEGINS [DAY 11] THE ASIA-PACIFIC WAR CONTINUES – AND ENDS [DAY 12] THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF JAPAN [DAY 13] POSTWAR HISTORICAL (DIS)CONTINUITIES [DAY 14] CONCLUSIONS

*Course format, evaluation methods and class schedule may be subject to change.