

Sophia University – January Session 2025

January 8th – January 29th, 2025 *January 8th: Orientation, *January 13: No-class day

Date: August 7, 2024

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 in-class discussions in the form of Q&A sessions are strongly encouraged.</p> <p>The course is delivered in-person. Any changes pertaining to class format will be announced in the 'Announcements' forum on Moodle.</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 as have a framework for understanding Japanese society during the modern period. Finally, students will be able to formulate a multi-layered understanding about the notion of "modernity" in the context of Japanese history.
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> . Any of the following editions is acceptable: 3 rd edition 2014 (ISBN: 9780199930159); 4 th edition 2019 (ISBN: 9780190920555); International edition, 2020 (ISBN: 9780197507339)

	Purchase of textbook: not necessary
	e-book: not applicable
Moodle	2025 January Session: Modern History of Japan
Contact Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •via Moodle message •via Email: collin_rusneac@sophia.ac.jp Moodle will be used to upload reading material and for evaluations
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>
Other comments	-
Class schedule	<p>*January 8: Orientation</p> <p>*January 13: No-class day</p> <p>[DAY 1] 1/9(Thu) INTRODUCTION</p> <p>[DAY 2] 1/10(Fri) THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (I)</p> <p>[DAY 3] 1/14(Tue) THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (II)</p> <p>[DAY 4] 1/15(Wed) THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (III)</p> <p>[DAY 5] 1/16(Thu) THE MEIJI 'REVOLUTION' BEGINS</p> <p>[DAY 6] 1/17(Fri) THE MEIJI 'REVOLUTION' CONTINUES</p> <p>[DAY 7] 1/20(Mon) MODERNIZATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION, WESTERNIZATION</p>

	[DAY 8] 1/21(Tue) THE JAPANESE COLONIAL EMPIRE (I)
	[DAY 9] 1/22(Wed) THE JAPANESE COLONIAL EMPIRE (II)
	[DAY 10] 1/23(Thu) TAISHŌ JAPAN
	[DAY 11] 1/24(Fri) THE ASIA-PACIFIC WAR
	[DAY 12] 1/27(Mon) THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF JAPAN
	[DAY 13] 1/28(Tue) POSTWAR HISTORICAL (DIS)CONTINUITIES
	[DAY 14] 1/29(Wed) CONCLUSIONS

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