

# Sophia University – Summer Session 2025

July 1 – July 22, 2025 \*July 1: Orientation \*July 4: No-class day

Date: January 2025

Course Title	Modern History of Japan
Course Code	HSZ200
Instructor	Collin Rusneac
Class Period	2nd Period (10:55-12:35)
Course Format	In-Person
Language of Instruction	English
Maximum class size	40
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>
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. Weekly assignments could take between 2-4 hours to prepare and write.
Course Materials	<p>All class material – mandatory and optional readings – will be uploaded on Moodle. The main text for the course is Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan from Tokugawa Times to the Present, 3rd edition 2014 (ISBN: 9780199930159); 4th edition 2019 (ISBN: 9780190920555); International edition, 2020 (ISBN: 9780197507339)</p> <p>Purchase of textbook: not necessary</p> <p>e-book: not applicable</p>

Moodle	All class material – mandatory and optional readings – will be uploaded on Moodle. Assignments will also be submitted through Moodle.
Contact Instructor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•via Moodle message</li> <li>•via Email: collin_rusneac@sophia.ac.jp</li> </ul>
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> <p>In addition, students will need to visit a history museum for two (out of three) of these assignments and then write about their visit.</p> <p>More details about the grading scheme and assignments' requirements will be shared on the first day of class.</p>
Other comments	-
Class schedule	<p>*July 1: Orientation</p> <p>*July 4: No-class</p> <p>[DAY 1] July 2 (W) INTRODUCTION</p> <p>[DAY 2] July 3 (R) MODERNIZATION THEORY</p> <p>[DAY 3] July 7 (M) THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (I)</p> <p>[DAY 4] July 8 (T) THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE (II)</p> <p>[DAY 5] July 9 (W) JAPAN AND ASIA, 1600-1850</p>

	[DAY 6] July 10 (R) THE MEIJI 'REVOLUTION' BEGINS
	[DAY 7] July 11 (F) THE MEIJI 'REVOLUTION' CONTINUES
	[DAY 8] July 14 (M) MODERNIZATION, INDUSTRIALIZATION, WESTERNIZATION
	[DAY 9] July 15 (T) THE JAPANESE COLONIAL EMPIRE
	[DAY 10] July 16 (W) THE ASIA-PACIFIC WAR BEGINS
	[DAY 11] July 17 (R) THE ASIA-PACIFIC WAR CONTINUES – AND ENDS
	[DAY 12] July 18 (F) THE AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF JAPAN
	[DAY 13] July 21 (M) POSTWAR JAPAN
	[DAY 14] July 22 (T) WRAP-UP

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

**[Important Note Regarding Class Capacity]**

Course enrollment in each course is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please be aware that once the maximum capacity is reached, you will no longer be able to select that course.

If you plan to transfer the credits to your home university, please consider alternative courses as well when making your study plan, in case the courses you want to take are full.

In case you are unable to take your desired courses and the number of courses you are enrolled in changes, a refund will be issued based on the number of courses reduced.