

Hist. 76
Spring 2006
Wed. 13:15-16:00
303 Trotter Hall

Prof. F. Dickinson
Office: Trotter Hall, Rm. 205
Office hrs: Wed. 4-5 p.m.
e-mail: frdickin@sas.upenn.edu

Triumph of the Individual in Modern Japan

This seminar examines the history of early modern through modern Japan (1600-2000) from the perspective of a handful of its accomplished individuals. Generally considered a homogeneous, consensus-building society, Japan will emerge here as a nation of enormous variety and clamorous debate, where individual voices have transformed the national polity not once, not twice, but at least four times in the last four centuries.

Objectives

The course is divided into two parts, each of which is designed to expose you to a critical facet of historical inquiry. Readings in Part I will introduce you to the basic history and historiography of modern Japan. In this section, we will survey several key players and events in modern Japanese history and discuss the different ways in which historians have treated these individuals and events.

Part II will highlight the primary source material used by historians to assess modern Japanese history and the people who have participated in that history: memoirs and oral histories. These materials cover the full range of modern Japan's experience from the early modern Tokugawa era (1600-1868) to Japan's reemergence on the global stage after 1945. They are designed to give you a sense of how contemporaries viewed their world and to develop the critical skills needed to interpret primary sources.

Texts

The following books should be purchased at the college bookstore (610-328-7756):

Osamu Ikeno, Roger J. Davies, eds., *The Japanese Mind: Understanding Contemporary Culture* (2002)

Richard Samuels, *Machiavelli's Children: Leaders & Their Legacies In Italy & Japan* (2003)

Mark Ravina, *The Last Samurai : The Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori* (2003)

Herbert Bix, *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan* (2003)

Kokichi Katsu, *Musui's Story* (1843)

Sayo Masuda, *Autobiography of a Geisha* (1957)

Akira Kurosawa, *Something Like An Autobiography* (1983)

A good portion of our readings are in article form, accessible on the course website. There is also a binder of these materials available on reserve in the library. Articles are preceded below by a number in brackets [], which indicates the order in which the piece appears on the website.

Requirements

There are three components of your grade, which break down as follows. The three paper assignments represent three types of historical analysis: a) historiography b) biography/research c) history/research. For the biography, we will make use of the papers of Nitobe Inazô in the Swarthmore College Friends Historical Library to highlight a particular aspect of Nitobe's life (your choice).

	<u>Points</u>	<u>% grade</u>
1) Papers		
a) Historiography, due Mch. 1 (20 pts)		
b) Biography/research of Nitobe Inazô, due Mch. 29 (5 + 5 + 5 + 20 = 35 pts)		
c) History/research, due Apr. 26 (20 pts)	75 pts	45
2) Class attendance and participation (5 each session)	65 pts	40
3) One class discussion	20 pts	15

Course itinerary

Week I

1/18 Intro

Part I: History and Historiography

Week II

1/25 Popular visions of Japanese homogeneity and “group think”
Ikeno and Davies, eds., *The Japanese Mind*
3:15 p.m. Christopher Densmore, Introduction to Nitobe Inazô collection

Week III

2/1 A Comparative History of Individuals **Biography title, blurb (5 pts)**
Samuels, *Machiavelli's Children*

Week IV

2/8 Power of the Individual in Late Tokugawa (1600-1868), early Meiji (1868-1912) Japan
Ravina, *The Last Samurai*

Week V

2/15 Cosmopolitan Face of Early 20th Century Japan **Biography source (5 pts)**
[1] Sukeo Kitazawa, *The Life of Dr. Nitobe* (1953)

Week VI

2/22 Celebrated Women in 20th Century Japan
[2] Laura Rodd, “Yosano Akiko and the Taisho Debate over the ‘New Woman’” (1991), pp. 175-98
[3] Miriam Silverberg, “The Modern Girl as Militant” (1991), pp. 239-66
[4] Sally Ann Hastings, “Women Legislators in the Postwar Diet” (1996), pp. 271-300

Week VII

3/1 Showa (1925-89) Japan's Most Renowned/Notorious Individual **Paper #1 (Historio, 20 pts)**
Bix, *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*

Week VIII

3/8 **Spring Break**

Week IX

3/15 Entrepreneurship in 20th Century Japan **Biography title, blurb, biblio (5 pts)**
[5] Sakiya Tetsuo, *Honda Motor: The Men, The Management, The Machines* (1982), pp. 33-89; 134-66

Part II: Japanese Voices

Week X

3/22 Samurai in Late Tokugawa (1600-1868) Japan
Katsu, *Musui's Story*

Week XI

3/29 Intellectual in 19th Century Japan **Paper #2 (Biography, 20 pts)**
[6] Fukuzawa Yukichi, *Autobiography* (1899), pp. v-xv; 239-336

Week XII

4/5 Voices from the Left in Late 19th, early 20th Century Japan

[7] Osugi Sakae, *Autobiography* (1921-2), pp. xi-xvii; 60-126

[8] Fukuda Hideko, *Half of My Lifetime* (1904), pp. 29-50

[9] Kaneko Fumiko, *What Made Me Do What I Did?* (1926), pp. 75-124

Week XIII

4/12 Geisha in 1930s Japan

Masuda, *Autobiography of a Geisha*

Week XIV

4/19 Childhood in 1930s Japan

[10] Kuroyanagi Tetsuko, *Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window* (1981)

Week XV

4/26 Artist in 20th Century Japan

Kurosawa, *Something Like An Autobiography*

Paper #3 (History, 20 pts)