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Japanese Society Since WWII

Seiji Shirane
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JAPANESE SOCIETY SINCE WWII

HIST 33550
M & W 2pm-3:15pm
Spring 2023

Dr. Seiji Shirane
Office: 5/135 (plus Zoom Office Hours)
Office hrs: M/W 3:30-4:30pm (email for appt.)
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Course Description

This course examines Japanese society in the aftermath of World War II. How did postwar Japan's changing relations with the US and its Asian neighbors impact Japanese society? Topics include the US Occupation, Japan's Cold War alliances, high economic growth, the 1960s student protests, postwar pacifism and the Self-Defense Force, women and US military bases, discrimination against Korean minorities, the rise of "Cool Japan," and the "people's emperor."

Course Format

This course will integrate lecture and student discussion into every class session. Students will be responsible for asking and answering questions during lecture and actively discussing that day's readings.

Course Packets

All readings will be distributed on the first day of class as course packets. Cost of class is \$0.

NO ELECTRONICS IN CLASSROOM

Requirements and Grading

- (1) Attendance (15%)
- (2) Participation (15%)
- (3) 5 Reading Quizzes (25%)
- (4) 3-Page Paper (10%)
- (4) Midterm Exam (20%)
- (5) Final Exam (25%)

REQUIREMENTS

(1) Attendance (15%):

Students should attend class ON TIME (i.e., EARLY). Lateness is distracting, and three latenesses (10 minutes or more) will count as a class absence.

(2) Participation (15%):

Students should complete the readings and be ready with comments and questions BEFORE CLASS. If you do not frequently raise your hand in class, expect to get a C in participation.

(3) 5 Reading Quizzes (5% each; 25% total):

During the semester I will give 5 short pop-quizzes (1-page) on that day's readings. It will be a 10-minute open-book quiz that asks students to write:

- (i) A concise summary of the author's argument(s)
- (ii) An explanation of the article's strengths
- (iii) Identification of the article's weaknesses
- (iv) Questions for class discussion

Students can drop their lowest quiz grade (the top 4 quiz grades will each count at 5% of the total grade). If you are absent on the day of the quiz, no make-ups will be accepted and it will be graded as an "F."

(4) 3-Page Paper (10%)

Students will choose a paper topic among a list that will be handed out in March. In answering questions to your 3-page (double-spaced, 12 pt font) paper, give specific examples from the readings listed to back up your arguments. Quote as little as possible, but make sure to cite your evidence with a page number in parentheses (Author Page #) (e.g., Caprio 155). Do not use footnotes.

Late papers will be marked down 1/3 of a grade per day late (e.g., 1 day from A- to B+; 2 days from A- to B). Papers more than 3 days late will receive an "F."

DO NOT REFER TO ANY OTHER WORKS (especially the internet—your paper will receive an automatic F for any plagiarism).

All written work must be original. At City College plagiarism is an act of academic misappropriation subject to the review and ruling of a college-wide disciplinary committee. (<http://www.cny.cuny.edu/ctl/Plagiarism.htm#Plagiarism Policies>)

(4) Midterm Exam (20%)

The midterm will consist of two essay questions. Write two essays (4 blue book pages each) using material from the readings and class lectures (nothing from the internet).

Students will be asked to include 12 listed IDs (and their definitions) in each of the essays. No IDs or essay questions will be given out in advance.

Failure to take the exam will result in an automatic "F."

(5) Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be the same format as the midterm. Although the material will come mostly from the second-half of the semester, the exam will be comprehensive (you are responsible for material from the entire semester).

WEEK 1: Course Introduction

1/31 (M)

- Introduction

2/2 (W)

- Conrad Schirokauer, "CH 11: Militarism and War," in *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization* (2006): 240-255.

WEEK 2: Japan's Defeat in 1945

2/7 (M)

- John Dower, "CH 1: Shattered Lives," in *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (1999): 33-64.

2/9 (W)

- Dower, "CH 2: Gifts from Heaven," in *Embracing Defeat*: 65-84.

WEEK 3: US Occupation, 1945-1952

2/14 (M)

- Dower, "CH 7: Embracing Revolution," in *Embracing Defeat*: 225-253.

2/16 (W)

- Dower, "CH 8: Making Revolution," in *Embracing Defeat*: 254-273.

WEEK 4: US Occupation (II)

2/21 (M)

- **NO CLASS** (President's Day)

2/23 (W)

- Dower, "CH 9: Imperial Democracy: Driving the Wedge," in *Embracing Defeat*: 277-301.

WEEK 5: Youth in the 1960s

2/28 (M)

- Christopher Gerteis, "CH 1: Unions, Youth, and the Cold War," in *Mobilizing Japanese Youth: The Cold War and the Making of the Sixties Generation* (2021): 11-41.

3/2 (W)

- Gerteis, "CH 2: The Rise and Fall of the Japanese Red Army," in *Mobilizing Japanese Youth*: 42-67.

WEEK 6: Youth (II)

3/7 (M)

- Gerteis, "CH 4: Cold Warriors," in *Mobilizing Japanese Youth*: 100-120.

3/9 (W)

- Gerteis, "CH 5," in *Mobilizing Japanese Youth*: 100-120.

WEEK 7: The Self-Defense Force (I)

3/14 (M)

• **MIDTERM EXAM**

3/16 (W)

- Aaron Skabelund, *Inglorious, Illegal Bastards: Japan's Self-Defense Force During the Cold War* (2022), CH 1: 25-62.

WEEK 8: NO CLASS

WEEK 9: SDF (II)

3/28 (M)

- Skabelund, *Inglorious, Illegal Bastards*, CH 2: 64-110.

3/30 (W)

- Skabelund, *Inglorious, Illegal Bastards*, CH 4: 158-202.

WEEK 10: US Military Bases

4/4 (M)

- Skabelund, *Inglorious, Illegal Bastards*, CH 5 + Epilogue: 203-257.

4/6 (W)

- Akemi Johnson, *Night in the American Village : Women in the Shadow of the U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa* (2019): Part I.

WEEK 11: Women in Okinawa

4/11 (M)

- Johnson, *Night in the American Village*, Part II.

4/13 (W)

- Johnson, *Night in the American Village*, Part III

WEEK 12: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 13: Zainichi Koreans

4/25 (M)

- Sayaka Chatani, "Revisiting Korean Slums in Postwar Japan: Tongne and Hakkyo in the Zainichi Memoryscape" (2021).

4/27 (W)

- Sayaka Chatani, "Becoming Korean: Japanese Wives in the Boundary Formation of a Leftist Zainichi Community" (2021).

WEEK 14: Soft Power

5/2 (M)

- 'Cool' Japan as Cultural Superpower, 1980s-2010s

5/4 (W)

- 'Cool' Japan as Cultural Superpower, 1980s-2010s

Week 15: The Imperial Household

5/9 (M)

- Ruoff, *Japan's Imperial House in the Postwar Era: 261-308*.

5/11 (W)

- Ruoff, *Japan's Imperial House in the Postwar Era: 308-347*.