History 608: Reinventing Japan

Colloquium: From the Latin, colloquy (conversation, dialogue). In this colloquium, we will engage the work of 21st century scholars who, who have challenged the established narratives of modern Japanese history and, in the process, reinvented “Japan” as a subject of inquiry.

Reading: The featured readings for each week appear in bold with an asterisk (*). A number of the required readings are available for purchase at the UO Bookstore; and most have been placed on reserve in Knight Library. Several newly published monographs, including those by Gerow, Atkins, Dower and Miyoshi, have not yet reached the library shelves. So, plan ahead: You are responsible for the completion of all required readings before class and should utilize the Knight Library Reserves and Videos Desk and/or the Summit interlibrary loan system to obtain readings that are not available for purchase.

Requirements: 1) Attendance is mandatory, as is class participation (25%); 2) Each student will make two (2) joint, in-class presentations on the reading, paired with one other student, and produce a single written “rejume” (synopsis and critique) for reference during the colloquium session (25% each = 50%); 3) All students will write a 10-12 page historiographical essay that surveys the literature on a sub-field of modern Japanese history (25%), due on December 6th. (25%)

Office Hours: 10-12 Tuesdays, and by appointment, in 327 McKenzie Hall. Phone: 6-4837; email: hanes@uoregon.edu,

Week One (September 28). The State of the Field.

I. Course Introduction and Self Introductions.

II. Area Studies and its Discontents.


III. Opening Up the Closed Country.

*Bruce Batten, To the Ends of Japan: Premodern Frontiers, Boundaries, and Interactions (2003), pp. 1-16.

Kiri Paramore, Ideology and Christianity in Japan (2009)
Martha Chaiklin, Cultural Commerce and Dutch Commercial Culture (2003)
Jeroen Lamers, Japonius Tyrannus (2000)
Mary Elizabeth Berry, *The Culture of Civil War* (1999)
Mary Elizabeth Berry, *Hideyoshi* (1989)

**Week Two (October 5): Roughing up the Peace. (Okazaki and Glowark)**

I. From Structure to Experience.


II. Tokugawa Cultures.

**Mary Elizabeth Berry, *Japan in Print* (2006)**

**Week Three (October 12): Society, Status & the Other. (Erickson and Maxson)**

**David Howell, Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth Century Japan** (2005)

**Week Four (October 19): Early Modernity!?. (Grunow and Zhao)**

**Dani Botsman, Punishment and Power in Modern Japan** (2005)

**Week Five (October 26): Civilization Versus Culture. (Okazaki and Robert)**

David Ambaras, *Bad Youth* (2007)

**Week Six (November 2): Absolute Alternate Modernity. (Maxson and Glowark)**

Yasunari Kawabata (Freedman trans.), *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (2005)
Taylor Atkins, *Blue Nippon* (2001)
Elise Tipton and John Clark, eds., *Being Modern in Japan* (2000)

**Week Seven (November 9): Colonies and Empire. (Zhao and Grunow)**

Alexis Dudden, *Japan’s Colonization of Korea* (2005)
Louise Young, *Japan’s Total Empire* (1999)

**Week Eight (November 16): Fascism Revisited. (Robert and Erickson)**

*Alan Tansman, ed., *The Culture of Japanese Fascism* (2009).*
James Bradley, *Imperial Cruise* (2009)
Herbert Bix, *Hirohito* (2001)

**Week Nine (November 23): Pacific War: Visualized, Politicized, Globalized.**

I. War Without Mercy.

James Bradley, *Imperial Cruise* (2009)
*The Pacific* (HBO, 2010)
*City of Life and Death* (Lu Chuan, 2009)
*Letters from Iwo Jima* and *Flags of Our Fathers* (2006)

II. Progress Reports on Historiography Papers (Erickson, Glowark, Grunow)
Week Ten (November 30): Postwar Japan as History.

I. Whither Japan?

*“Japan is Not Interesting” in Trespasses: Selected Writings Masao Miyoshi (2010), pp. 189-204.
Yasukuni (Li Ying, 2008)
Mariko Tamanoi, Memory Maps: The State and Manchuria in Postwar Japan (2009)
Franziska Seraphim, War Memory and Social Politics in Japan (2006)
Laura Hein, Reasonable Men, Powerful Words (2005)
Walker and Pflugfelder, Japanimals (2005)
Laura Hein and Mark Selden, eds., Censoring History (2000)
Yukiko Koshiro, Trans-Pacific Racisms and the U.S. Occupation of Japan (1999)
John W. Dower, Embracing Defeat (1999)

II. Progress Reports on Historiography Papers (Maxson, Okazaki, Robert, Zhao).

The historiography essays are due in my office, 327 McKenzie, by December 6.