

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN
Graduate School of International Relations

Academic Year: 2016/2017

Term: Spring

Course	Course code ADC6117	Course title History and Culture of Modern Japan	
Name of Instructor	Andrea Pressello		Credit Number:
Instructor's contact Information	Office#	Office Hours	E-mail: andreap@iuj.ac.jp
Class Schedule Day / Time	Friday / 10:30-12:00, 13:00-14:30		

Course Description:

This course examines the major issues in Japanese history and culture from the Edo period (1603-1868) to World War II. The focus is on the process of political, economic, social, and cultural transformation experienced by Japan in this period. Another aspect explored in this course is how the process of modernization of the country was both influenced by external factors and has influenced Japan's international relations. Some of the broad questions that will be addressed are: what factors explain Japan's relatively rapid modernization? What challenges did Japan have to face during the modernization process and how did it address them? How do we explain Japan's shift from a cooperative stance in relations with the West in the early 20th century to conflict with the United States in the Pacific War? What transformations took place in Japan's culture and society? A previous knowledge of Japanese history and culture is not required.

Learning Objectives:

The course aims at providing the knowledge and instruments to be used in the process of analysing and understanding Japan, its culture, and its international relations both in their historical evolution and in the contemporary world.

Career Relevance:

This course contributes to the acquisition of an historical perspective on Japan, its culture, thought, and interactions with the world. This is a necessary background and skill for those interested in becoming specialists on Japanese affairs in the academic or public sectors and international organizations, as well as for those pursuing a career in the private sector with Japanese firms/institutions or with foreign companies/organizations dealing with Japan.

Course Context or Rationalization: This course focuses on domestic processes and external factors as necessary elements for understanding and explaining the behavior of Japan, one of the major actors in international relations in Asia and globally. The extended historical period covered by the course allows to gain a long-term perspective on the patterns and transformations in Japan's relations with the external world.

<p>Delivery Methods: Classes are a combination of lectures, discussions, students' presentations, and video.</p>	
<p>Assessment: There is no final exam. Students are required to write a final essay of 2,000 words on any of the topics discussed during the course. Grading: Attendance 30%; Participation in class 30%; Final essay 40%</p>	
<p>Prerequisite:</p>	
<p>Textbook(s)</p>	<p>Required: There is no specific textbook required for this course.</p> <p>Reference books/Journal Articles: A list of reading materials will be provided by the instructor in class</p>
<p>Class Outline</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduction 2) Japan before the 17th century 3) Economic and social transformations in the Edo period 4) Culture and urban life in early modern Japan 5) Domestic and external factors in the collapse of the Tokugawa system 6) Making a modern Japan: Meiji government's goals, strategy, and priorities 7) The intellectuals and modernization 8) Modernizing Japan's economy: role of the state, private initiative, and external inputs 9) People's rights movements and the adoption of modern political institutions 10) The making of Japan as an international power 11) Nationalism, gender, and culture in the Meiji period 12) From World War I to the "Washington system": the period of Japan's cooperation with the West 13) Social movements, mass culture, and party cabinets in the 1910s-1920s 14) The rise of militarism and Japan's society in the 1930s 15) The road to Pearl Harbor 16) Japan in Southeast Asia during the Pacific War 17) Defeat and Surrender 18) Society and reforms in occupied Japan 19) Cold War and the "San Francisco system" 20) Wrap up
<p>Others (if any)</p>	