**Preliminary Syllabus**

**Modern Japanese History**
History 490  CRN: 42137  
Summer 2015  
Session II: July 20-August 12  
MTWR 12:00-1:50; 275 LIL

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The purpose of this course is to examine the history of Japan from the early modern period (1600-1868) to the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami. In the first part of the course we will examine the transition from Japan’s violent reunification to the creation of Japan’s Pax Tokugawa system. We will then move on to examine the internal and external forces that resulted in the Meiji Restoration and the rapid modernization of Japan. In the second part of the course we will navigate Japan’s modern period, paying close attention to the tensions between Japan’s internationalism and nationalism, tracing the roots of Japanese imperialism, but also engaging with cosmopolitanism, society, and culture. We will then examine the road to war and the varied experiences of the war for both Japanese soldiers and civilians living on the homefront. In the final part of the course we will learn about the American occupation, the postwar economic miracle, and contemporary issues in Japanese society.

**Required Reading:**
Texts posted on Canvas.

**Evaluation:**
Class Attendance and Participation: 10%  
Midterm Exam: 20%  
Two 2-3 Page Primary Source Response Papers: 20% Each  
Final Exam: 30%

**Grading rubric:**
A+: Work of unusual distinction.  
A: Work that distinguishes itself by the excellence of its grasp of the material and the precision and insight of its argument, in addition to being well executed and reasonably free of errors.  
B: Work that satisfies main criteria of the assignment, and demonstrates command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.  
C: Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least
some of the assigned criteria.
D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.
F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregard for the assigned question.

Accessibility:
The University of Oregon works to create inclusive learning environment. Please notify me if there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in disability-related barriers to your participation. You are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 541-346-1155 or uoaec@uoregon.edu.

Week One: The Tokugawa Period
July 20: Sengoku, Sekigahara, and Japan’s Reunification
July 21: The Tokugawa Shogunate: A Place for Everything and Everything in Its Place
July 22: Tokugawa Society and Culture
July 23: Internal Problems/External Threat

Week Two: The Meiji Restoration and Japan’s Modernization
July 27: Bakumatsu and The Meiji Restoration
July 28: Civilization and Enlightenment; Wealthy Country, Strong Military
July 29: Taishō Democracy and Erotic Grotesque Nonsense
July 30: MIDTERM

Week Three: The Pacific War and the American Occupation
August 3: The Road to War
August 4: The Pacific War
August 5: FILM: TBD
August 6: The Occupation

Week Four: Postwar Japan
August 10: ANPO and Activisms
August 11: The Economic Miracle and the New Middle Class
August 12: Globalization, Multiethnic Japan, and Japan Today