History of Japan 1945 - Present

Syllabus for HIST 2991
UNO-Japan at Dōshisha, Summer 2015
Class meets Period I (9:00-10:30)

Prof. David Rands
Email: To be determined

Course Description
A survey of postwar and contemporary Japan in global contexts from 1945 to the present.

Objectives/Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Understand the historical narrative of Japan from the end of the Pacific War to the present
- Identify continuities and discontinuities in Japanese society
- Utilize a personal journal to see how the individual experience interacts with the metanarrative
- Compose coherent essays describing Japanese history

Required Texts

Students will be required to have access to the following texts


Writing Assignments

All students will have two writing assignments in the course. Each essay will account for 20% of the course grade.

Assignment 1 (2000 words) – Students will evaluate the movies “Ikiru” produced by the Toho Company (1956), and “Giants and Toys” produced by Daiei Studios (1958) and write an analytical paper describing how these two films are representative of the period they were made in.

Assignment 2 (2000 words) – Students will write an essay utilizing *The Japan Journals* to show how the individual experience intertwines with the metanarrative.

Exams

Two essay exams will be scheduled: a midterm and a final. The midterm will be worth 20% of your final grade. It will be an hour-and-a-half minute essay exam, open-book and open-notes. The final will be similar in format, and will be worth 30% of your final grade.

Honors Option

Students taking the class for an Honors Option are required to write a paper (2000 words) about historical memory in post-war Japan.
Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. Due to the very intense and fast-moving nature of this program, only ONE unexcused absence is permitted. On the second unexcused absence, your participation grade in the course will be reduced by 7%. For each subsequent absence, your participation grade will be reduced an additional 7%. More than five unexcused absences will automatically result in a failing grade for the course.

Participation

It is important to understand, however, that the class is not just about showing up. During the discussions you will have a chance to explore the issues of the class. Don’t let uncertainty and the fear of “being wrong” or “sounding stupid” stop you from speaking! Active class participation can take many forms: an informed analysis, a succinct synopsis, a well-timed guess, a directed question, or even a statement of utter confusion—all could inform and clarify difficult issues. Remember, participation also includes respecting your peers and helping to foster an atmosphere conducive to the sharing of ideas. It is likely that you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. No student should hesitate to speak his or her mind in section, and all comments should be respected, even when challenged. Courteous behavior and responses are expected. But also remember that talking for talking’s sake is not useful to anyone. Participation will be graded at the end of the semester and will account for 10% of the course grade.

Student Conduct

Be in class on time. Do not come late, as these distractive disruptions are inconsiderate and time-wasting. Timely arrival to class is also required; repeated tardiness will have an effect on your grade. Sleeping is not permitted in class and it will be treated as an absence.

Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to alert the UNO-Japan program before departure if academic modifications are being sought.

It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individualized basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or to meet course requirements. Students with disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services as well as their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations. For more information, please go to http://www.ods.uno.edu.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluation academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information, which is accessible from: http://www.studentaffairs.uno.edu/pdfs/AcademicDishonestyPolicy.pdf

Grading for History 2991

90-100% = A
80-89% = B
70-79% = C
60-69% = D
< 60% = F
Class organization:

Week 1 –
The Japan Journals Introduction, pp 2-18, 43-46, 48-54
火 5/26- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 1-9
木 5/28- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 50-75

Week 2 –
The Japan Journals pp 79-109
水 6/3- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 164-173, 176-184
木 6/4- Film: “Ikiru” first half
金 6/5- Film: “Ikiru” second half

Week 3 –
The Japan Journals pp 113-119, 119-137
火 6/9- Midterm Examination
水 6/10- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 204-220
金 6/12- Film: “Giants and Toys”

Week 4 –
The Japan Journals pp 158-176, 215-225
Film Analysis Assignment Due
火 6/16- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 248-262
木 6/18- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 284-311
金 6/19- Japan in the 21st Century – pp 312-322

Week 5 –
The Japan Journals pp 283-313
Japan Journals Assignment Due
水 6/24- Final Examination