

Topics in Modern Japanese Political History

Earl H. Kinmonth

2016 Fall Term

Objectives

- The first goal of this course is to provide students who have already completed introductory-level study of Japanese history an opportunity to engage in more specialized reading and discussion.
- The second goal of this is to provide students who have little or no background in modern Japanese history with an introductory narrative focused on but not limited to political history.

Objectives

- The course will cover selected topics in from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present but the primary emphasis will be on the 1930s and 1940s or the period of militarism and fascism in Japan.
- This period is emphasized because the “legacy” of this period is still contentious within Japan and is a recurring issue between Japan and other countries, especially the PRC and the ROK.

Objectives

- Students will examine in detail a number of major political developments from this period and polish their critical skills by reviewing important works of scholarship.
- The ultimate goal for each student will be to research and write a paper on a specific aspect of Japanese political history or thought in the time span covered by this course or to make a presentation in lieu of a written report.

Objectives

- The third goal of this course is to give students an understanding of how the writing of history is always shaped by the contemporary circumstances of those who produce historical narratives or incorporate arguments and lessons allegedly drawn from history into their thought and writings.
- By understanding how and why authors have created different historical narratives of the same periods and events, students will gain the skills needed to see the manipulation of the past in the on going present.

Schedule

- While the overall ordering of subjects is unlikely to change, the dates on which specific subjects are covered will often be different from what is the syllabus.
- Depending on the number of student presentations and the subjects covered in the presentations, there may be extensive changes to the schedule.

Schedule - Topics

- **Week 1** Course Introduction – The Politics of Japanese Political History
- **Week 2** The Pre-Modern Background of Modern Japanese Politics
- **Week 3** The Meiji Restoration and Its Many Aspects
- **Week 4** Between Meiji and Militarism – Taisho Democracy
- **Week 5** Political Cross Currents in the 1930 - Militarism, Fascism, and Socialism; The Peculiarities of Japanese Fascism and Its Interpretation

Schedule - Topics

- **Week 6** Military Politics: Rational and Romantic Week; The Politics of Conscription and Enlistment
- **Week 7** A New Heaven on Earth: Manchuria, The Plan Rational State; Japanese Colonial Policy in Japanese Domestic Politics
- **Week 8** Intellectual bureaucrats as Political Actors: Visionary Intellectuals and a New Order for Japan and Asia
- **Week 9** The Political Thought of Maruyama Masao; The Politics of History Education and Writing in Postwar Japan

Schedule - Topics

- **Week 10** Emperor Hirohito, General McArthur, and the Politics of Victor's Justice; The Yasukuni Shrine in Japanese Domestic Politics and International Relations
- **Week 11** The Politics of Memory and Apology: (1) The Rape of Nanking; (2) The Comfort Women
- **Week 12** The Politics of Immigration and National Identity; The Politics of Families and Family Planning Schedule

Schedule

- **Week 13** Student presentations
- **Week 14** Student presentations
- **Week 15** Student presentations
- Scheduling of presentations may change depending on the number and length of presentations and whether students want to do presentations before or after the winter break.

Schedule

- The weekly schedule is subject to adjustment. Factors that will lead to adjustment include
 - Natural disasters
 - Cancellations due to epidemics
 - The number and length of student presentations
 - News events with historical element within the time span of this course

Student Presentations

- Students are encouraged to make presentations on subjects within the time frame of this course whether or not those subjects are on the syllabus
- Presentations may be done as individuals or as a group.
- Students who do presentations do not need to submit any other work for the course.
 - Further instructions for presentations will be distributed later in the course

Language

- The language of instruction is English. Occasional video materials may have Japanese language narration that the instructor will translate or summarize.
 - Students with special needs should communicate these to the instructor.
 - If the pace is too fast or too slow, inform the instructor of the problem.

Textbooks

- There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings are available on the web sites maintained by the instructor.
- The web sites are listed on the course syllabus.
- <http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history4>
- <http://ehk.servebeer.com/waseda/history4>

Textbooks

- The background and review portion of this course (the first five weeks) will be keyed to Kenneth B. Pyle. **The Making of Modern Japan.** 2nd Ed. (NY: D.C. Heath & Co., 1996).

Textbooks

- Among other useful surveys the following two items are recommended
 - Andrew Gordon, **A History of Modern Japan**. 2nd Ed. (NY. Oxford University Press, 2009).
 - Peter Duus, **Modern Japan**. 2nd Ed. (NY Houghton Mifflin, 1998).

Grading

- Final examination, research report, or presentation (80%). Other factors (20%). Students will be allowed to select either an essay format final examination or writing a research paper although the latter is strongly encouraged. (Presentations are considered to be “research papers.” No other work is required if a student elects a presentation.)

Other Factors In Grading

- 通常点
 - Attendance
 - Participation
 - Enthusiasm
 - Hardship
- Will always help, never hurt

Grading in Lake Waseda

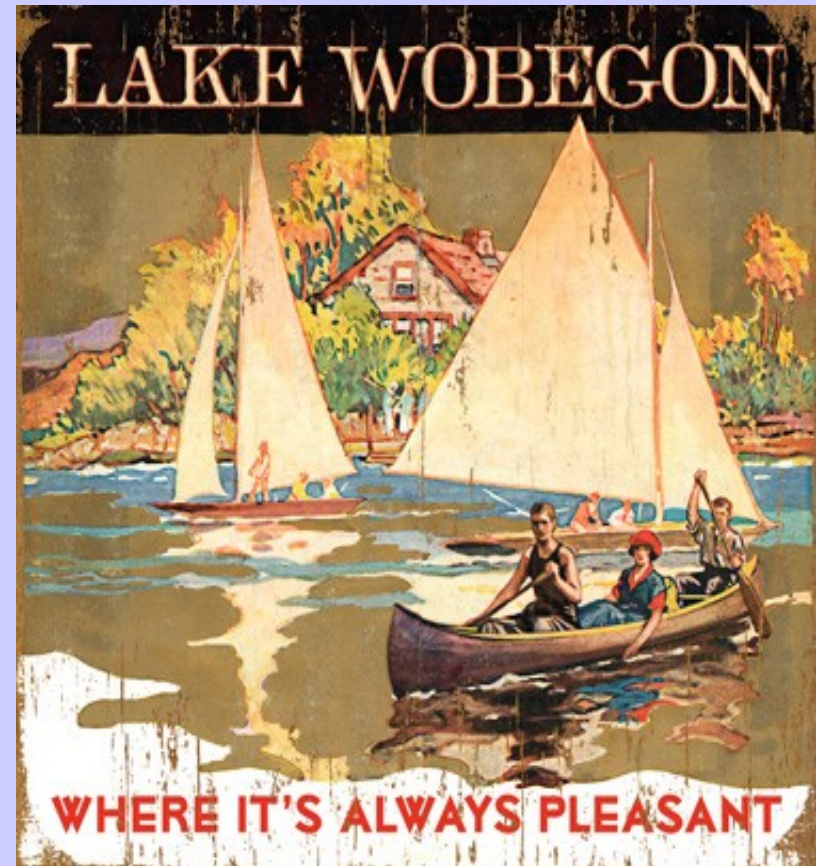
- Unlike Lake Wobegon, not all the children in Lake Waseda are above average.
 - A-level grades are given in recognition of submissions that show extra effort and thought while covering the subject thoroughly.
 - B-level grades are given in recognition of submissions that are a solid treatment of the subject using basic sources.
 - C-level (or lower) grades are given in recognition of sloppy, incomplete work or that with major factual errors.
 - Submissions that look like you expected that a few lines of complete rubbish would at least get you a passing grade because “that’s the way things are done here” will receive failing grades.

Regurgitation

- Covering the subject thoroughly means using the specified and recommended sources AND incorporating material from the lectures. Regurgitation of a textbook treatment will NOT earn a high grade.
- At many points in the course, the instructor will give alternative interpretations to those found in the readings or textbook. Some of these interpretations are from other scholars. Some from the instructor's own research. Your written work should show knowledge of these interpretations although disagreement is welcome.
- Cut and paste from Wikipedia is NOT acceptable. You can use Wikipedia (properly identified as a source), but it is generally better to use Wikipedia as a guide to finding more scholarly articles on the subject.
- Allowance in terms of writing style will be made for those who are not native speakers of English.

Lake Wobegon

- Lake Wobegon is a fictional town in the U.S. state of Minnesota, said to have been the boyhood home of Garrison Keillor, an American humorist who recently announced his retirement.



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Podcast

Subscribe to our podcasts:

The News from Lake Wobegon

Each week, Garrison Keillor shares with listeners the latest news and views from the little town where “all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average.”

To subscribe to the News from Lake Wobegon podcast, copy and paste the following URL into your podcasting client:

http://americanpublicmedia.publicradio.org/podcasts/xml/prairie_home_companion/news_from_lake_wobegon.xml

If you're using iTunes, [follow this link](#).



Now you can hear the News from Lake Wobegon podcast on **iHeartRadio for iPhone and Android**. Get the app at iHeartRadio.com and search for “News from Lake Wobegon” or “Prairie Home Companion.”



Listen to the News from Lake Wobegon each week on **SoundCloud**. The News from Lake Wobegon podcast is updated every Monday.

Due to rights restrictions and existing contracts, we are unable to produce a podcast version of each week's entire show. However, since GK is the only one performing during the monologue “The News from Lake Wobegon,” we are pleased to make that available—now as a free podcast.

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Lake Wobegon Effect

- The characterization of the fictional location, where "all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and *all the children are above average*," has been used to describe a real and pervasive human tendency to overestimate one's achievements and capabilities in relation to others.
- The **Lake Wobegon effect**, where all or nearly all of a group claim to be above average, has been observed among drivers, CEOs, stock market analysts, *college students*, parents, and state education officials, among others. (Wikipedia)

Class Format

- The class format includes lectures, Q&A sessions, videos, and student presentations.

Slides

- What you see on the screen now
- Saves time
- “Subtitles” 字幕 for non-native speakers of English
- Japanese on the slides
 - Vocabulary for students learning Japanese
 - Reminder or reference for the instructor

Slides and Readings

- Slides are available in PDF and PPS format on the websites maintained by the instructor
- Readings are available in PDF format maintained by the instructor
- Course N@VI is NOT used

Earl H. Kinmonth

Current Teaching for Students

学生向き現在の授業

The alternative server at ehk.servebeer.com is generally unavailable between 0030 and 0600.

Contact Information

- EMAIL: ehk@gol.com

Research Interests

- [The Middle Classes and Militarism in Early Showa Japan](#)
- [The Impact of Changing Demographics on Japanese Private Universities](#)
- [Japan in the Foreign Imagination](#)
- [My research interests \(Japanese\)](#)

Biographical Information

- [Short English Vita](#)
- [Long English Vita](#)
- [Short Japanese Vita](#)
- [Teaching \(past\)](#)
- [Teaching \(current and recent\)](#)
- [Photo](#)

Earl H. Kinmonth
Topics in Modern Japanese Political History
Monday 4th-5th Periods

[Previous Page](#)

Updated 2015-09-27

WASEDA PORTAL

- The Waseda Portal is **NOT** used for this course. All material pertaining to this course is made available only through this web page or mirrors of it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 The first meeting of this course is 28 August (Monday).

OFFICE HOUR AND CONSULTATION

- Last 20-30 minutes of the 5th period in the scheduled classroom.

READINGS, SLIDES, HANDOUTS

- With the exception of administrative items, "handouts" in this course are **not** printed and distributed to students. You can read the "handouts" on line or print your own copies. There are two archives of the handouts, primary and secondary. The primary archive is continuously available. It may be slow to appear the first time you access it. The secondary archive may be off line without notice. Course materials are first tested on the secondary archive and then copied to the primary archive.

- [Primary archive.](#)

- [Secondary archive.](#)

OTHER REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Course Outline ([HTML](#)) ([PDF](#)) If any major changes are made, they will be incorporated into this item. Any versions of the syllabus appearing on Waseda University sites will **NOT** be revised.

- [Student Survey](#)

- Specifications and Suggestions for Presentations [Individual Presentations](#), [Group Projects](#).

Primary Archive

The screenshot shows a OneDrive web interface. At the top, the OneDrive logo and name are visible. Below the navigation bar, there is a breadcrumb path: `ehk > teaching > waseda > homepage`. The main content area displays a grid of files and folders. The first row contains four folders: 'lectures' (18 items), 'pyletext' (22 items), 'readings' (15 items), and 'reference' (1 item). The second row contains seven items: a folder named '.waseda', a presentation file '150409_intro_history3', a PDF file '150409_intro_history3' with a thumbnail titled 'Modern Japanese Political History Introduction to the Course', a PDF file '150521_essay_exam...', a PDF file '150926_course_outli...', a PDF file '150928_political_his...', and an 'index' file. Each item includes a thumbnail, a name, and a 'Can view' permission indicator.

Email – Web Site

Web Sites

<http://www2.gol.com/users/ehk/waseda/history4>

<http://ehk.servebeer.com/waseda/history4>

Email

ehk@gol.com Questions.

ehkuso@gmail.com Questions and submissions.

English or Japanese.

Put waseda, your name, your student number in the subject heading.

Office Hour

- The instructor is an adjunct lecturer at Waseda (非常勤講師) and as such has no office and no office hour
- In principle the final 20-30 minutes of the second class period will be used for consultation (aka “office hour”)

LOONEY TUNES



"That's all Folks!"

スライド終了

QUESTIONS?