

**INST 310: Japan in the World**  
Fall 2012, Croft 107  
T/Th 2:30-3:45

**Noell Wilson ( nrwilson@olemiss.edu)**

**Office: Bishop 311**

**Office hours: Tuesday 9 to 11, or by appointment**

**Course description and goals:**

In the forty years since the Japanese “Economic Miracle” of the 1960s and the pronouncement by some Western observers of “Japan as Number One,” Japan catapulted to extraordinary global influence as the motor of a new “Asian Century,” and then precipitously fell in stature during the “Lost Decades” of 1990-2010. At least this is the narrative told by the Western media, but is it true? Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course examines Japan’s recent history to explore the causes of contemporary economic and cultural malaise, as well as the sources of its enduring world influence. We begin by critically examining the shorthand terms journalists and scholars have used to identify Japan’s recent national trajectory, and then move to an overview of its modern history. In the second half of the course, we evaluate Japan’s ability to exert both “hard” and “soft” power abroad since the 1970s, in the form of military, diplomatic, economic, and cultural influence.

**Required readings:**

Dudden, Alexis. *Troubled Apologies: Among Japan, Korea, and the United States*. (Columbia U Press, 2008).

Kelts, Roland. *Japanamerica: How Japanese Pop Culture has Invaded the US*. (Palgrave McMillan, 2007).

Pyle, Kenneth. *Japan Rising: The Resurgence of Japanese Power and Purpose*. (PublicAffairs, 2008).

Whiting, Robert. *The Samurai Way of Baseball: The Impact of Ichiro and the New Wave From Japan*. (Grand Central, 2005).

Plus additional PDF and other digital texts as indicated on the syllabus.

**Course Requirements:**

One midterm exam	(150 points)
Two five-page papers on assigned readings	(300 points)
One ten-page “review of the literature” paper	(200 points)
Final exam	(150 points)
Participation	(200 points)

Final course grades will be assigned using the +/- system.

## Plagiarism

I have a zero tolerance policy for intellectual dishonesty. Confirmed cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of F for the course and potentially other sanctions by the University. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please see me

### CLASS MEETING AND READING SCHEDULE

#### I: INITIAL CONCEPTS

##### Week 1 Aug. 21

##### Introduction

Aug. 23

##### **“The Asian Century:” What is it, and what is Japan’s place?**

- (1) <http://japanwatching.com/japan-and-the-world/179-an-asian-century>  
“An Asian Century” at “Japan Watching Blog”
- (2) <http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/global-power-shift-making>  
Hoge, “A Global Power Shift in the Making,” *Foreign Affairs* (July 2004)
- (3) [http://www.asienkunde.de/content/zeitschrift\\_asien/archiv/pdf/A100\\_070\\_078.pdf](http://www.asienkunde.de/content/zeitschrift_asien/archiv/pdf/A100_070_078.pdf)  
Sommer, “Is the 21<sup>st</sup> Century going to be the Asian Century,” *Asien* (July 2006)
- (4) <http://www.thehindubusinessline.in/2005/04/16/stories/2005041600540800.htm>  
“Asian century” in *The Hindu Business Line*, 4/16/2005
- (5) Joseph Nye, TED talk, “Global Power Shifts”  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/joseph\\_nye\\_on\\_global\\_power\\_shifts.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/en/joseph_nye_on_global_power_shifts.html)

##### Week 2 Aug. 28

##### **“Soft power:” What is it, and how is it useful for understanding Japan today?**

- (1) Nye, Joseph, *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics* (NY: Public Affairs, 2004): ix-32, 83-89. (Preface, Chapter 1, “Asia”)
- (2) Joffe, Joseph, “The Perils of Soft Power,” *Hoover Digest*, 3 (2006)  
<http://www.hoover.org/publications/hoover-digest/article/6314>
- (3) Vyas, Utpal. “The Japan Foundation in China: An Agent of Japan’s Soft Power?”  
*electronic journal of contemporary Japanese studies*, August 2008.  
<http://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/articles/2008/Vyas.html>

**Aug. 30**            **“The Lost Decade:” Did it happen, and how has it shaped Japan’s foreign affairs?**

(1) Fingleton, Eamonn. “The Myth of Japan’s Failure,” *NYT* January 6, 2012.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/08/opinion/sunday/the-true-story-of-japans-economic-success.html?pagewanted=all>

(2) Samuelson, Robert. “Japan’s Lost Decade – and ours,” *Washington Post*, March 11, 2012.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/japans-economic-crisis-is-a-cautionary-tale-for-the-united-states/2012/03/09/gIQAb8fx5R\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/japans-economic-crisis-is-a-cautionary-tale-for-the-united-states/2012/03/09/gIQAb8fx5R_story.html)

(3) Yglesias, Matthew. “Japan’s Lost Decade: All Too Real,” *Slate*, January 2012.

[http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2012/01/09/japan\\_s\\_lost\\_decade\\_all\\_too\\_real.html](http://www.slate.com/blogs/moneybox/2012/01/09/japan_s_lost_decade_all_too_real.html)

(4) “Japan’s Economy: Whose Lost Decade?” *The Economist*, Nov. 11 2011

<http://www.economist.com/node/21538745>

## **II: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**Week 3 Sep. 4**            **The “Japanese Puzzle,” and the place of Early Imperialism**

Pyle, *Japan Rising* Intro and Chapters 1-3

**Sep. 6**                    **Japan Challenges the World Order at Mid Century**

Pyle, *Japan Rising* Chapters 4-6

**Week 4 Sep. 11**        **Japanese Responses to the Cold War in East Asia**

Pyle, *Japan Rising* Chapters 7-9

**Sep. 13**                **Documentary screening, *Japan, Inc.***

**\*First 5 page paper due.**

### III. THE STATE OF JAPAN'S GLOBAL POWER IN THE PRESENT

#### Week 5 Sep 18                    **Cultural Power I: Popular culture**

- (1) Kelts, Roland. *Japanamerica*, Forward and Chapters 1-5
- (2) Allison, Anne. "Pocket Capitalism and Virtual Intimacy: Pokemon as Symptom of Postindustrial Youth Culture," in *Figuring the Future: Globalization and the Temporalities of Children and Youth* (School for Advanced Research Press, 2009).  
<http://fds.duke.edu/db/attachment/1108>

**\*Lit review topic and working bibliography due.**

#### Sep 20                    **Popular Culture cont.**

- (1) Kelts, Roland. *Japanamerica*, Chapters 6-9
- (2) McGray, Douglas. "Japan's Gross National Cool," *Foreign Policy*, May 1 2002.

[http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2002/05/01/japans\\_gross\\_national\\_cool?page=full](http://www.foreignpolicy.com/articles/2002/05/01/japans_gross_national_cool?page=full)

- (3) Tsutui, William. *Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization*. (Association for Asian Studies, 2010), 35-71. (PDF)

#### Week 6 Sep 25                    Film Screening: *From Up on Poppy Hill* (Goro Miyazaki, 2011)

#### Sep 27                    Film Screening: *From Up on Poppy Hill*

**\*Annotated bibliography due.**

#### Week 7 Oct 2                    **Cultural Power II: Baseball**

Whiting, *The Samurai Way of Baseball*, chapters 1-5.

#### Oct 4                    **Baseball 2**

Whiting, *The Samurai Way of Baseball*, chapters 6-10.

#### Week 8 Oct. 9                    **Midterm**

#### Oct. 11                    **Peer critiques and class discussion of literature review progress**

#### Week 9 Oct. 16                    **Diplomatic Power in the North Pacific**

Dudden, *Troubled Apologies*, Intro, Chapters 1 and 2

#### Oct. 18                    **Diplomatic Power, cont.**

Dudden, *Troubled Apologies*, Chapters 3 and 4

**Week 10 Oct. 23**

**Military Power: The Benefits and Limitations of Article 9**

(1) Stengel, Frank, "The Reluctant Peacekeeper," *Japan aktuell* (1/2008)

<http://www.giga->

[hamburg.de/dl/download.php?d=/content/publikationen/archiv/ja\\_aktuell/jaa\\_0801\\_fokus\\_stengel.pdf](http://www.giga-hamburg.de/dl/download.php?d=/content/publikationen/archiv/ja_aktuell/jaa_0801_fokus_stengel.pdf)

(2) Read select items from "Constitutional Revision in Japan Research Project," TBA

<http://wax.lib.harvard.edu/collections/collection.do?coll=101&lang=eng>

(3) Junkerman, John. "The Global Article 9 Conference: Towards the Abolition of War," 2008.

<http://www.japanfocus.org/-John-Junkerman/2760>

**Oct. 25**

**In class film screening and discussion: *Tokyo Sonata* (Kiyoshi Kurosawa, 2008)**

**\*Second 5 page paper due**

**Week 11 Oct. 30**

**Discussion of select articles from press regarding the Japanese economy, TBA**

**\*Draft of lit review due (25% of grade)**

**Nov. 1**

**Economic Power: What will Japan's economic role be in the Asian Century?**

"Asia 2050 Plan," Asian Development Bank 2011

<http://www.ibef.org/download/asia-2050.pdf>

**Week 12 Nov. 6**

**The Influence of 3/11 on Japan's Place in the World**

Group presentations from various articles, TBA

<http://www.japanfocus.org/japans-3.11-earthquake-tsunami-atomic-meltdown>

**Nov. 8**

**Wrap-up**

Pyle, *Japan Rising*, Chapters 10 and 11, Epilogue

Kelts, *Japanamerica*, Epilogue

**Week 13 Nov. 13**

**Student Presentations**

**\*Final draft of lit review due day of presentation**

**Nov. 15**

**Student Presentations**

**Week 14 Nov. 27      Student Presentations**

**Nov. 29      Student Presentations**

**Final Exam: Tuesday December 4, 4pm.**

The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor, and students are responsible for adhering to these alterations.