

INST 345: Japan in the World
MWF 10-10:50
Croft 204

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Course description and goals:

In the fifty 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. This class offers a historical overview of modern Japan for students most interested in broadening their general knowledge of East Asia while also providing a topical analysis of the core issues shaping contemporary Japan for students writing a Japan related thesis.

Required readings:

Lucy Birmingham and David McNeill. *Strong in the Rain*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2012.
Hitori Nakano, trans. Bonnie Elliot. *Train Man*. New York: Del Ray/Ballantine, 2007.
William Tsutsui, *Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization*, Association for Asian Studies, 2010.

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

Course Requirements:

Midterm exam	20%
Weekly quizzes and current events journal	15%
2 3-page papers on assigned readings	10%
“Review of the literature” paper and presentation	25%
Final exam	20%
Participation	10%

Final course grades will be assigned using the +/- system. No student will receive a passing grade without completing all of the written assignments. Late papers will be docked a letter grade for each day submitted past the designated due date.

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 Jan. 25 (M) **Introductions**

Jan. 27 (W) “The Asian Century:” What is it, and what is Japan’s place?

<http://asiancenturyinstitute.com/economy/29-japan-in-the-asian-century>

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/opinion/2015/09/30/commentary/world-commentary/asian-century-already-petering/#.VqPP7cfuPww>

Monocle soft power survey, 2014-15 (5:37 min video)

<http://monocle.com/film/affairs/soft-power-survey-2014-15/>

Monocle soft power survey, 2015-16 (5:07 min)

<http://monocle.com/film/affairs/soft-power-survey-2015-16/>

<http://japanwatching.com/japan-and-the-world/179-an-asian-century>

“An Asian Century” at [Japan Watching Blog](#)

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/global-power-shift-making>

Hoge, “A Global Power Shift in the Making,” *Foreign Affairs* (July 2004)

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.in/2005/04/16/stories/2005041600540800.htm>

“Asian century” in *The Hindu Business Line*, 4/16/2005

Jan. 29 (F) “The Lost Decade(s)” Did it happen, and how has it shaped Japan’s foreign affairs?

(1) Andrew Gordon, “Japan’s Lost Decades” in *A Modern History of Japan* (Oxford, 2013), pp. 308-335. (BB)

(2) 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&_r=1&

(3) 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

(4) “The unseen casualties of Japan’s Lost Decades Suffer in Silence”

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/042a592e-c283-11e4-ad89-00144feab7de.html#axzz3xycp0Q8X>

II: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Week 2 Feb. 1 (M) **Japan in the world through 1900**

Pyle, *Japan Rising*, “Introduction: The Japan Puzzle” (pp. 1-17) and “Chapter 3: The World Japan Entered” (pp. 66-97) (BB)

Feb. 3 (W) **Rise of Japanese Imperialism**

Pyle, *Japan Rising*, “Chapter 4: Stature Among Nations” (pp. 98-136) and “Chapter 5: The Challenge of International Liberalism” (pp. 137-169) (BB)

Feb. 5 (F) **Class research meeting in Library 106E**

Week 3 Feb. 8 (M) **Japan Challenges the World Order at Mid Century**

Pyle, *Japan Rising*, “Chapter 6: Japan’s Abortive New Order” (pp. 170-209) (BB)

Feb. 10 (W) **Postwar Miracle and the Cold War**

Pyle, *Japan Rising*, “Chapter 7: The Cold War Opportunity” (pp. 211-240) and “Chapter 8: The Yoshida Doctrine as Grand Strategy” (pp. 241-277) (BB)

Feb. 12 (F) **Japan Ascendant?**

Pyle, *Japan Rising*, “Chapter 9: The Post-Cold War Interval in East Asia” (pp. 278-309). “Chapter 10: Japan and the Rise of China” (pp. 310-339), and “Chapter 11: The Prospect of a New East Asian Order” (pp. 340-362) (BB)

***statement of research topic and preliminary bibliography due**

III. JAPAN’S GLOBAL CULTURAL POWER

Week 4 Feb. 15 (M) **What is “Gross National Cool”?**

Allison, “J-Brand: What Image of Japan is getting sold in Japan’s gross national cool?”, (pp. 1-8)(BB)

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

Nye, Joseph. “The Changing Nature of Power,” (pp. 1-32) in *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*. (BB)

Feb. 17 (W) Hello Kitty and National Branding

Yano, *Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific* (Duke U Press, 2013), Chapter 2, "Marketing Global Kitty:" 84-118. (BB)

Koichi Iwabuchi, "Pop-culture diplomacy in Japan: soft power, nation branding and the question of 'international cultural exchange,'" *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 21:4 (2015): 419-432. (BB)

***First 3 page paper due**

Feb. 19(F) Food Power

Bestor, Ted. "How Sushi Went Global," *Foreign Policy*, November/December 2000, pp. 54-63. (BB)

George Solt, "Flavor of the Month: American Ramen and "Cool Japan"" in *The Untold Story of Ramen*, pp. 163-77. (BB)

Week 5 Feb. 22(M) Anime and Soft Power

Tsutsui, *Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization*.

Napier, *Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke* (BB)

Feb. 24 (W) Anime viewing and discussion

Feb. 26 (F) Anime in Translation

Week 6 Feb. 29 (M) "Train man" (*Densha no Otoku*) and Otaku culture: Train Man 1

Alisa Freedman, "Train Man and the Gender Politics of Japanese 'Otaku' Culture: The Rise of New Media, Nerd Heroes and Consumer Communities," *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*, 20 (April 2009)

<http://intersections.anu.edu.au/issue20/freedman.htm>

*Optional: original web conversation

<http://www.geocities.co.jp/Milkyway-Aquarius/7075/trainman.html>

Mar. 2 (W) Train Man II

Mar. 4(F) Train Man discussion

IV: RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

Week 7 Mar. 7(M) Relations with South Korea

J. Berkshire Miller, "Room to Maneuver: The Prospects for Pragmatism in Japan's Regional Relations," *Foreign Affairs*, August 25 2015. (BB)

Dudden, *Troubled Apologies* (BB)

Recent *Indian Express* op-ed.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/an-uncomfortable-legacy-sexual-slavery-japan-south-korea-comfort-women-humanity/>

Mar. 9 (W) Relations with China

Gavan McCormack, "Much Ado over Small Islands: The Sino-Japanese Confrontation over Senkaku/Diaoyu," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, Vol 11, Issue 21, No. 3, May 27, 2013.

<http://japanfocus.net/-Gavan-McCormack/3947/article.html>

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/10/why-japan-wont-get-too-involved-in-the-south-china-sea/>

Roy, *Return of the Dragon: Rising China and Regional Security* (Columbia 2014). (BB)

Mar. 11(F) Midterm

MARCH 14-18 SPRING BREAK

Week 8 Mar. 21(M) Relations with India

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/12/japans-high-speed-rail-breakthrough/>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/indian-cabinet-agrees-to-pick-japan-for-high-speed-rail-project-1449744059>

<http://www.thequint.com/opinion/2015/12/12/aboard-on-bullet-train-but-india-needs-high-speed-network-upgrade>

"Warning for Beijing: India-Japan diplomacy is a setback for China's One Belt, One Road initiative"

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/warning-for-beijing/>

<http://chellaney.net/2014/09/03/india-japan-alliance-shapes-up/>

<http://chellaney.net/2014/02/02/how-the-japan-india-alliance-could-redraw-asias-geopolitical-map/>

<http://chellaney.net/2014/01/22/japan-and-india-a-transformative-entente/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/asia/india/12058832/Indias-bullet-train-will-benefit-the-wealthy.html>

<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/node/1908>

BR Deepak, "Shinzo Abe's India Visit: How Special is India-Japan strategic and global partnership?"
12/9/2015

<http://www.southasiaanalysis.org/node/1917>

Bhaskar Roy, "India and Japan Affirm Security of Indo-Pacific Region" 1/4/2016

<http://mea.gov.in/Images/pdf/indiajapanrelationsnov2012.pdf>

Mar. 23 (W) Public Diplomacy and Brand Building

Nancy Snow, "NHK World and Japanese Public Diplomacy"

<http://ripeat.org/wp-content/uploads/tdomf/3598/Snow%20RIPE%20paper%202014.pdf>

Snow, 2014, "Japan Today"

<http://www.japantoday.com/category/opinions/view/brand-building-why-japan-plays-catch-up-with-regional-competitors>

Vyas, "The Japan Foundation in China"

<http://www.japanesestudies.org.uk/articles/2008/Vyas.html>

Galloway, "A Critical Analysis of the JET Programme"

<https://www.kandagaigo.ac.jp/kuis/about/bulletin/en/021/pdf/009.pdf>

Mar. 25 (F) GOOD FRIDAY (NO CLASS)

Week 9 Mar. 28(M) Japan, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the TPP

www.adb.org

"Why China is creating a new 'World Bank' for Asia" *The Economist*, Nov. 11 2014. (BB)

"Asian Development Bank presidency: Looking Beyond Japan" *The Guardian*, Monday April 22 2013, John Sinclair. (BB)

<http://thediplomat.com/2015/10/what-the-tpp-means-for-japan/>

C. Fred Bergstrom, "The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Japan"

<http://www.iie.com/publications/opeds/oped.cfm?ResearchID=2871>

***Second 3 page paper due**

Mar. 30(W) Instructor at conference (one day show documentary)

April 1(F) Instructor at conference (prep literature reviews)

Week 10 Apr. 4 (M) Military Power: The Benefits and Limitations of Article 9

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

Port, *Transcending Law: The Unintended Life of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution* (Carolina Academic Press, 2010), pp. 3-48. (BB)

Apr. 6 (W) Abe's US Congressional Visit and Constitutional Revision

Port, *Transcending Law*, pp. 49-85, 113-123. (BB)

Jeffrey W. Hornung, "Abe Expresses Himself: The Takeaways from his Speech to Congress," *Foreign Affairs*, May 6, 2015. (BB)

Plus interview in WP, and remarks By Abe and Obama in joint press conference

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/28/remarks-president-obama-and-prime-minister-abe-japan-joint-press-conference>

Apr. 8 (F) A Shifting US-Japan Defense Relationship

J. Berkshire Miller, "A Good Defense in East Asia: Inside the New US-Japanese Defense Guidelines," *Foreign Affairs*, May 11, 2015. (BB)

Igarashi Takayoshi, "Reclamation, Licensing and the Law: Japan's Courts Take up the Henoko Base Issue" <http://www.japanfocus.org/2016/14/1/Igarashi-Takayoshi/4844.html>

V. CHALLENGES AT HOME

Week 11 Apr. 11 (M) Peer critiques of final paper

Apr. 13 (W) Immigration and the work force

Kingston (BB) and recent press articles

Apr. 15 (F) A Greying Society

Kingston (BB) and recent press articles

Week 12 Apr. 18 (M) The Fukushima Incident

Strong in the Rain

Apr. 20(W) Documentary viewing

Apr. 22 (F) The enduring influence of 3/11

Strong in the Rain discussion

VI: OPPORTUNITIES FOR JAPAN IN THE NEXT DECADE

Week 13 Apr. 25 (M) “Bending Adversity”?

Pilling, “Bending Adversity” in *Bending Adversity: Japan and the Art of Survival* (Penguin, 2014), 303-318. (BB)

Allison, “Pain of Life” in *Precairious Japan* (pp. 1-20) (BB)

Apr. 27 (W) Observers weigh in

Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, Chapter 18 “Shock, Disaster and Aftermath: Japan since 2008,” pp. 336-354. (BB)

Pesek, “Will Abenomics save the World?” in *Japanization: What the World can Learn From Japan’s Lost Decades* (Bloomberg, 2014), pp. 185-212. (BB)

Apr. 29 (F) Olympic Potential

(1) www.tokyo2020.jp

(2) www.dezen.com/tag/tokyo-2020-olympics

(3) Shuying Yuan, “A miraculous revitalization of Japan? A comparative analysis of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games, the failed 2016 host city bid, and the successful 2020 bid” *Asia Pacific Journal of Sport and Science*, 2:3 (2013): 198-213. (BB)

(4) Kelly, William. “Asia Pride, China Fear, Tokyo Anxiety: Japan Looks Back at Beijing 2008 and Forward to London 2012 and Tokyo 2016,” *International Journal of the History of Sport*. 27:14 (2010) , pp. 2428-2439. (BB)

(5) Robin Kietlinski, “One world one dream? Twenty-first Century Japanese perspectives on hosting the Olympic games,” pp. 52-63 in Andreas Niehaus and Christian Tagsold, eds. *Sport, Memory and Nationhood in Japan: Remembering the Glory Days*. NY: Routledge, 2013. (BB)

***Final draft of lit review due**

Week 14 May 2 (M) Student Presentations
May 4 (W) Student Presentations
May 6 (F) Student Presentations

Final Exam: Friday May 13 at 8 a.m.

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