A. Course Description: This course traces the rise of modern Japan from the Tokugawa period (1600-1867) through the Meiji Restoration of 1868, and into the contemporary "modern" world of the Shôwa (1926-1989) and Heisei (1989- ) eras. Interpretive issues related to Japan’s historical developments in "feudalism," confucianism, constitutionalism, imperialism, liberalism, socialism, communism, fascism, totalitarianism, militarism, democracy, capitalism, and post-modernism will be explored, since the latter were the supposed forces which most significantly informed the vicissitudes of Japan over the last three centuries. Our survey of modern Japanese history concludes with a discussion of postwar Japan and its impressive economic accomplishments, as well as its efforts to create a more liberal, egalitarian polity even while maintaining its imperial house. Contemporary issues related to war, peace, and Japan’s international role in the future will also be discussed. Students who complete the course can expect to have a comprehensive yet detailed grasp of the often contorted and seemingly contradictory logic of Japan’s modern historical development.

B. Grading: Grading will be based on regular quizzes (20%), two exams (30% each), and a brief (5 pp) paper on a topic assigned by the professor related to the assigned books (20%). The first exam will be given on Thursday, March 5; the last on Thursday, April 23. Exams will include objective (true/false, multiple choice) and essay questions. At least 60% of each exam and quiz will consist of essay questions. Perfect attendance is expected. Repeated unexcused absences may result in a reduction of the final grade. While the instructor will lecture regularly, class participation in the form of insightful questions and comments, are welcomed. Readings will be discussed weekly.

East Carolina University seeks to comply fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a covered disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services, located in Slay 138, to verify the disability
before any accommodations can occur. The telephone number is 252-737-1016.

C. Required Readings:


D. Recommended General Readings:


NEWSPAPERS: Japan Times, Asahi shinbun, Daily Yomiuri, Mainichi Daily News

E. Weekly Lecture and Reading Schedule

January 13/15: Introduction to the course Major Turning Points of Japanese history

January 20/22: Politics and Society in Tokugawa Japan

Readings
Duus, chs. 1-4.

Advanced Readings


January 27/29: Collapse of the Old Regime

The Treaty of Kanagawa  Harris Treaty

Readings
Duus, ch. 5. The Autobiography of Yukichi Fukuzawa

Advanced Readings


February 3/5: Redefining Political Ideals and Order

Redefining Political Ideals and Order (2). Meiji Constitution

Imperial Household Law

Readings
Duus, chs. 6, 7 & 9. Splendid Monarchy

Advanced Readings


February 10/12: **Meiji Imperialism**  
**Readings**  
Duus, ch. 8. *Kokoro*

**Advanced Readings**  


February 17/19: **Paradoxes of Taisho Japan**  
**Readings**  

**Advanced Readings**  


February 24/26: **The "Dark Valley" of Militarism**  
**Readings**  
*The Pacific War*  
*War Without Mercy*
Duus, chs. 12-14. *Prompt and Utter Destruction*

**Advanced Readings**


**March 3/5: Review and First Exam**

**March 8-15: Spring Break**

**March 17/19:** [American Occupation](#)  [The Peace Constitution](#)

**Readings**

Duus, chs. 15-18.

**Advanced Readings**


**March 24-26: International Studies Conference**

**March 31/April 2:** [Japan’s Cold War Reverse Course](#)

**Readings**

Duus, ch. 19.

**April 7/9:** [The Postwar Economic Miracle](#)

**Readings**

Duus, ch. 20.

**Advanced Readings**


April 14/16: Shocks, Scandals, Bubbles, and Bursts
Readings
In the Realm of a Dying Emperor

Advanced Readings


April 21/23: Review and Exam