



ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 1994
 REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2025
 COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval): September 2030
 Course outline form version: 28/10/2022

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: HIST 236	Number of Credits: 3 Course credit policy (105)										
Course Full Title: Modern Japan: Society and Culture from Samurai to Anime Course Short Title: Modern Japan											
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities	Department (or program if no department): History										
Calendar Description: Students explore Japanese history from the 18th century to recent decades. Themes examined include popular culture, education, media, nationalism, and politics.											
Prerequisites (or NONE):	None.										
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):											
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):											
Antirequisite Courses <i>(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)</i> Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>	Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Annually Maximum enrolment (for information only): 36										
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Lecture/seminar</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Total hours</td> <td style="text-align: center;">45</td> </tr> </table>	Lecture/seminar	45							Total hours	45	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.
Lecture/seminar	45										
Total hours	45										
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Transfer Credit <i>(See bctransferguide.ca.)</i> Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: No <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>										
Department approval	Date of meeting: March 15, 2024										
Faculty Council approval	Date of meeting: May 31, 2024										
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	Date of meeting: September 27, 2024										

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to

1. Identify key components in Japanese history from the 18th century to recent decades.
2. Debate political, social, and cultural themes pertinent to Japan's modern transformations.
3. Identify the differences between primary and secondary sources and work with both.
4. Contextualize data, views, and ideas both in primary and secondary sources.
5. Interpret textual and visual sources as well as films from modern Japanese history.
6. Explain how historians formulate their accounts, and assess the merits and limits of their scholarly approaches.
7. Express ideas, arguments, and interpretation in writing and speech.
8. Collaborate with others in historical analysis and contribute to making a caring community of learners.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	25%	Assignments:	65%	Holistic assessment:	10%
	%		%		%

Details:

Assignments: mini lesson (10%), literature review essay (10%), primary sources analysis (15%), thematic essay (30%)

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Teaching methods will include lectures, student presentations, in-class discussions, and online discussions on asynchronous platforms.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Christopher Goto-Jones	Modern Japan: A Very Short Introduction	2009
2. Online resource	Various contents in digital humanities, such as the UBC Meiji at 150 Visual Essays (https://meiji150tr.arts.ubc.ca/essays/) and MIT Visualizing Cultures website (https://visualizingcultures.mit.edu/home/index.html)		
3. Video	May include Honda Ishiro's 1954 film, <i>Gojira</i> (the original <i>Godzilla</i>) or other Japanese films, as well as relevant YouTube videos		
4. Article	Various peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters that deal with themes explored in the course		
5.			

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)***Course Content and Topics**

Unit 1: Towards Modernity (the 19th century)

- Cultural life in early modern Japan
- Fall of the Tokugawa regime
- The Meiji transition: political processes, socio-economic practices, and cultural responses to changing times
- Education, nation-making, and gender

Unit 2: Imperial Modernity (early to mid-20th century)

- Colonialism and empire
- Indigenous peoples and colonized peoples
- Warring nation and wars
- Defeat in WWII and the US occupation

Unit 3: Japan in the Post-WWII World

- Political reconfigurations and the emergence of the postwar regime
- Popular memories and attitudes towards the war
- Political struggles in the 1960s
- Anime and popular culture in recent times