

Kyoto and the Meiji Restoration  
Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies  
Fall 2018  
(revised 5 September 2018)

Monday and Thursday, 2:55 – 4:25 p.m.

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## **OBJECTIVES**

2018 marks the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Meiji Restoration (明治維新); long regarded as the event that precipitated the “rise of modern Japan” during the ensuing Meiji Period (1868-1912). To commemorate this anniversary—and take advantage of our KCJS location—this course highlights Kyoto’s seminal role between 1850 and 1868 in triggering the Restoration, and the Restoration’s seminal role in reinventing Kyoto as both a modern city and the cradle of Japan’s traditional culture. It traces the city’s transformation from staging ground for the Restoration, to early victim of the new government’s drive to modernize (which included relocating the imperial court from Kyoto to Tokyo), to its eventual rejuvenation as Japan’s iconic bridge between past and present, traditional and modern. To that end, the course also considers the foreign and domestic crises that triggered the Restoration, surveys the major political, social and cultural changes that marked Emperor Meiji’s 45-year reign, and considers how the “legacy of Meiji” has been commemorated, debated and represented over the past 150 years.

## **CONTENT AND ORGANIZATION**

Part One introduces the course topic, surveys the major political, economic and social developments in Tokugawa-era Japan (1600-1850) that sparked the *bakumatsu* political crisis (1850-1866), and recounts the series of events that began in and around Kyoto in 1867 and culminated in the Meiji Restoration and Boshin War (1868-1869) between imperial loyalists and Tokugawa defenders. Part Two examines how the Meiji government’s reform policies impacted Kyoto, beginning with its radical decision to relocate the Emperor and the center of government to Tokyo. Kyoto’s abrupt demotion to “former imperial capital” influenced the eventual program of educational, economic, religious and cultural reforms aimed at revitalizing the city and asserting a role for Kyoto in the dynamic process of modern nation building. Part Three concludes the semester by considering the legacy of the Restoration for Kyoto as well as for Japan, whose empire at the time of the Meiji Emperor’s death in 1912 encompassed Taiwan, Korea, southern Sakhalin, and the Liaotung Peninsula.

## **FORMAT**

Approximately half of our class meetings will take place off campus: 11 separate field trips throughout Kyoto are planned, including some to sites that most tourists overlook. To compensate for travel time between campus and our destinations, a few class meetings will begin before 2:55 pm, and one field trip will take place on a Saturday. Field trips will feature informal commentary instead of structured lectures, so it is essential that students complete the assigned reading before each trip. Non-travel days will feature occasional lectures and student-led discussions based on assigned readings.

## REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING POLICY

1. READING ASSIGNMENTS. The following books are required for the course. Copies are available for purchase through KCJS. Reserve copies will also be placed in the KCJS staff office.

- a. Mark RAVINA, *To Stand with the Nations of the World: Japan's Meiji Restoration in World History* (ISBN 978-0195327717)
- b. MURASAKI Shikibu, Richard Bowring (translator), *Lady Murasaki's Diary* (ISBN 978-0140435764)
- c. Yasunari KAWABATA, *The Old Capital* (978-1593760328)

Additional required readings will be distributed in pdf format for students to read on a computer and/or print out on your own. Weekly reading assignments are listed below (see "Class Schedule"). Interested students can supplement these readings with optional Japanese-language source materials in consultation with the professor.

Students may enjoy watching the remaining episodes of "Segodon" (西郷どん) that is airing on Sunday evenings on the NHK public broadcasting network throughout 2018. Based on a novel by Hayashi Mariko, it follows the life of Saigo Takamori, a lower ranking samurai from Satsuma domain. Saigo is often depicted as a "tragic hero" who was instrumental in overthrowing the Tokugawa bakufu and establishing the Meiji government in 1868, only to lead a rebellion against the government in 1877 that cost him his life. Much of the action takes place in Kyoto, Satsuma (Kagoshima) and Edo (Tokyo), complete with the use of regional dialects. We will take up the question of how the Meiji Period has been remembered and depicted in historical fiction during the second half of the semester.

2. ATTENDANCE counts for 10% of the course grade. Regular attendance at all scheduled class meetings and fieldtrips is required. Unexcused absences will lower your attendance grade, as follows: 1 = 92/A; 2 = 82/B-; 3 = 72/C-; 4 = F.

***Once class has started, please turn off and put away cell phones, and refrain from exiting and re-entering the classroom to use the restroom. Use of laptops in class is restricted to taking class notes and accessing reserve readings or student discussion papers.***

3. PARTICIPATION is a vital component of this course: active student involvement in discussions and other planned activities is essential to its success. Students and the professor will be learning from each other's interpretations of the material. Therefore, it is essential that you have all reading assignments prepared on time (see "Class Schedule" below for due dates).

You will be graded on three types of class participation:

- (a) Oral comments and questions during class discussions and field trips count for 15% of the course grade.
- (b) One oral presentation as discussion leader (see 4c. below) counts for 3% of the course grade.
- (c) A short PowerPoint presentation of your Final Project (see 4d. below) during the last week of November counts for 10% of the course grade. A copy of your PowerPoint document must be submitted to the professor electronically on the date of your in-class presentation.

#### 4. WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Detailed guidelines for each of the following writing assignments will be distributed separately.

- (a) A Journal consisting of your field notes plus digital photos documenting all scheduled field trips counts for 12% of the course grade. Journals should be submitted electronically for review on December 3.
- (b) One Essay Paper (5-6 double-spaced pages) on an assigned topic is due in class on October 11. It counts for 10% of the course grade.
- (c) One Discussion Paper (3 double-spaced pages) based on an assigned reading or readings, which you will present in class to begin that day's class discussion (see 3b. above). Due dates will vary. This paper counts for 5% of the course grade.
- (d) Final Project Paper (7-8 double-spaced pages) based on the same topic as your PowerPoint presentation (see 3c. above) is due Wednesday, December 12 by 4:30 pm. The paper counts for 15% of the course grade.

**Policy on Late Assignment Submissions.** Papers will be penalized one letter grade for each day they are late.

#### 5. MID-EXAM

An in-class exam will take place on October 25, and will be based on material presented between September 3 and October 22. The mid-term exam counts for 20% of the course grade. A study guide for the exam will be distributed on October 18.

**Academic Honesty.** Plagiarism—the deliberate act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrative material or statements of someone else, without full and proper acknowledgement, and presenting them as one's own—is a serious offense. It is your responsibility to become familiar with the details of how plagiarism is to be avoided, and the proper forms for quoting, summarizing, and paraphrasing, which are presented in books such as the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Please see the instructor if you have any questions.

**Accommodating Students with Disabilities.** If you are a student with a disability and have a DS-certified 'Accommodation Letter' please come to my office to confirm your accommodation needs. If you believe that you have a disability that requires accommodation, you can contact your home school's Disability Services or Columbia's Disability Services at [disability@columbia.edu](mailto:disability@columbia.edu). The Office of Global Programs (OGP) can also assist you to connect with Columbia's Disability Services if you wish.

#### CLASS SCHEDULE

##### Part I. Toward Restoration

- September 3 Course overview; Why Commemorate Meiji? Why Focus on Kyoto?
- September 6 Court and Bakufu before Tokugawa: Kyoto's Failed Imperial Restorations  
Reading: Ravina, *To Stand with the Nations of the World*, Introduction and Chapter 1

- September 10 Japan under the Tokugawa Bakufu  
Reading: Ravina, *To Stand with the Nations of the World*, Chapter 2
- September 13 Kyoto under the Tokugawa Bakufu (I)  
**Field Trip to Nijojo**  
Reading: Dougill, *Kyoto: A Cultural History*, Chapter 9 (pdf); excerpt from Keene, *Emperor of Japan: Meiji and His World, 1852-1912* (pdf)
- September 17 NO CLASS (National Holiday)
- September 20 Kyoto Under the Tokugawa Bakufu (II)  
**Field Trip to Sumiya Motenashi Museum**  
Reading: Fiévé, “Social Discrimination and Architectural Freedom in the Pleasure District of Kyoto in Early Modern Japan” (pdf)
- September 24 NO CLASS (National Holiday)
- September 27 *Bakumatsu* Kyoto: From Tokugawa to Meiji  
**Field Trip to Ryozen Gokoku Jinja**  
Reading: Ravina, *To Stand with the Nations of the World*, Chapters 3-4; selections from Walthall and Steele, *Politics and Society in Japan’s Meiji Restoration* (pdf)

## Part II. Meiji: Restoration or Revolution?

- October 1 “Separation of Shinto and Buddhism” – Presentation by Dr. Adam Lyons  
Reading: Grapard, “Japan’s Ignored Cultural Revolution” (pdf)
- October 4 Exodus from Kyoto  
**Field Trip to Gosho**  
Reading: Fujitani, “From Court in Motion to Imperial Capitals” (pdf); Tseng, “Urban Parks and Imperial Memory,” pp. 91-103 (pdf)
- October 11 Political Conflict and Consolidation  
**Field Trip to Hokoji and Toyokuni Jinja**  
**Essay Paper due**  
Reading: finish Ravina, *To Stand with the Nations of the World*; selected primary sources (pdf)
- October 8 NO CLASS (National Holiday)
- October 15 Social and Educational Reform in Kyoto  
**Field Trip to Kyoto Municipal Museum of School History**  
Reading: Stanley, “Enlightenment Geisha: The Sex Trade, Education, and Feminine Ideals in Early Meiji Japan” (pdf)  
Additional Recommended Reading: 「京都の芸術家と学校」 (pdf)
- October 18 Economic Revitalization in Kyoto (I): The “Traditional Economy”  
Reading: Sapin, “Naturalism Fusing Past and Present” (pdf); Sapin, “Merchandising Art and Identity in Meiji Japan: Kyoto Nihonga Artists’ Designs for Takashimaya Department Store, 1868-1912” (pdf)

- October 20 (Saturday) Economic Revitalization in Kyoto (II): Infrastructure;  
Reclaiming Kyoto's Imperial Heritage (I)  
**Field Trip to Biwa Canal Museum and Heian Jingu**  
Reading: Tseng, "Urban Parks and Imperial Memory," pp. 104-116 (pdf)
- October 22 Reclaiming Kyoto's Imperial Heritage (II)  
(1) 11:30 am – 12:45 pm **Observe the Jidai Matsuri at the Goshō**;  
(2) 2:55 – 4:25 pm in-class discussion
- October 25 **Mid-Term Exam**
- Oct. 29-Nov. 1 NO CLASSES (Fall Break)
- November 5 (extended class: 1:00 – 4:00pm) Kyoto Geisha and Tourism  
**Attend Gion Odori Performance**  
Reading: Okada, "Before Making Heritage: Internationalization of Geisha in the Meiji Period" (pdf)
- November 8 Canonization of Heian Women's Writing  
Reading: Suzuki, "Gender and Genre: Modern Literary Histories and Women's Diary Literature" (pdf); *Lady Murasaki's Diary*
- November 12 Kyoto Women and the Popular Rights Movement  
Reading: Copeland and Okamoto, "Kishida Toshiko (1863-1901)" (pdf); Jennison, "Shimizu Shikin (1868-1933)" (pdf)
- November 15 Higher Education and the Modern Middle Class  
**Tour of Harris Science Hall Doshisha Gallery**  
Reading: Hardy, *Life and Letters of Joseph Hardy Neeshima*, Chapter V, pp. 180-243  
Google E-Book:  
[https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=IYk9AAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gs\\_ViewAPI&redir\\_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=IYk9AAAAAYAAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gs_ViewAPI&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false)
- November 19 Representing "Japan" through Art (I): Kyoto Artisans and International Expositions  
Reading: Aso, *Public Properties*, Chapter 1 (pdf); Tsuchikane, "Rescuing Temples and Empowering Art" (pdf)
- November 22 Representing "Japan" through Art (II): "Kyoto Imperial Gift Museum"  
**Field Trip to Kyoto National Museum**  
Reading: Aso, *Public Properties*, Chapter 2 (pdf); Tseng, "The Imperial Kyoto Museum" (pdf)

### **Part III. Kyoto as Meiji Memoryscape**

- November 26 **Students' PowerPoint Presentations**
- November 29 **Students' PowerPoint Presentations**

- December 3 No Class  
**Journals due** (electronic submission)  
Reading: Mori Ogai, “Tsuge Shorozaemon” (pdf); Akutagawa Ryunosuke,  
“Rashomon” (pdf)
- December 6 (extended class: 1:00-4:00 pm)  
**Field Trip to Emperor Meiji Mausoleum and Nogi Jinja**  
Reading: Kawabata, *The Old Capital*
- December 12 **Final Project Papers due by 4:00 pm**