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JPNS 391.01: Meiji: Birth of Modern Japan

Brian Dowdle

University of Montana - Missoula

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JPNS 391
Special Topics: Meiji the Birth of Modern Japan

Classroom and Time

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 11:00-11:50; LA 204

Professor:

Brian Dowdle

Brian.dowdle@mso.umt.edu

Office: LA 326

Office Hours: M 12:00-1:30, W 1:00-2:00, and by appointment

Course Objectives and Purpose:

The year 2018 is the 150th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration (1868). Using this as an opportunity for historical reflection, this course reexamines many of the long-held ideas about the Meiji Period (1868-1912) and its place in Japanese history. Students will learn about and explore this period through various topics. In so doing, we will become familiar with theoretical frameworks and narrative structures for making sense of this complex time. Additionally, we will use our study of Japan to compare its development with that of the State of Montana during the same time period.

Texts:

Futabatei, Shimei, and Marleigh Grayer Ryan. *Japan's First Modern Novel, Ukigumo of Futabatei Shimei*. Ann Arbor, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 1990.

Huffman, James L., *Japan and Imperialism, 1853-1945*. Ann Arbor, Association for Asian Studies, 2010.

All texts will be available as PDFs on Moodle. You are responsible for bringing a printed-out copy that has been marked up for all readings to class (unless told to do otherwise).

Grading:

Your final grade will be based on the following five criteria.

Participation and contributions to classroom discussion:	15%
Weekly content quizzes/reading reports:	15%
Research exercises:	10%
Presentation of Work	
Final paper	30%
Poster presentation	15%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Participation and contribution to classroom discussion: All class members are expected to **complete** all assigned readings before class meets. **6 or more absences for any reason** constitute an automatic failure in the course: this is Japanese section policy and will be strictly enforced. In the unlikely event that you become seriously ill for several days or have a major emergency, you must contact your professor immediately. The decision about how to make arrangements with you to catch up will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Weekly Quizzes: There will be several brief quizzes over the titles, authors, dates, and themes covered. The quizzes are intended to be rather simple and straightforward assessments of basic knowledge.

Directed Reading Reports: Occasional directed reading sheets will provide a series of questions to help you focus on conceptual concerns or issues that you should address as you analyze and respond to that week's readings.

Research Exercises: There will be several research assignments. These are intended to familiarize you with library resources and/or apply theoretical and methodological approaches.

Research Presentation and Writing/Research Process: Over the course of the semester you will develop, research, and present on a topic related to an aspect of Meiji Japan and Montana. This project is at the center of the course, and you should give it your full attention and effort.

Final Exam: During finals week there will be a two-hour examination of major theme, terms, events, and historical figures. It will be based on content from readings, lectures, and in-class discussion.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with Disabled Student Services (DSS). That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the professor when requesting accommodation. If you need help, do not hesitate to communicate with your professor and visit during office hours for advice.

Student Conduct Code: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University.

All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umn.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Basic Advice: College is a time of rapid transformation in your life. Please take care of your health and wellbeing. Get plenty of sleep; eat your vegetables; and enjoy physical activities.