MODERN JAPANESE HISTORY: 1850 ~ PRESENT

1. Dates and Times
Mon 1   (8:45~10:15)   Discussion
Fri 4   (14:45~16:15)  Lecture

2. General Description
This course surveys the dramatic transformation of Japan from isolated “feudal” state to expansionist empire to modern economic superpower and producer of hybrid cars, cool games, cute characters, and wacky TV.

The course has the following principal goals:
1. to become conversant with a general narrative of events (1850-present)
2. to learn to read and interpret primary documents

3. Course Content
Fri 4 will be lecture. The lectures will be videotaped and made available online for review and/or for students unable to attend.
Mon 1 will focus on discussion of the previous lecture and primary source materials.

Weekly Schedule
2. Bakumatsu 9. WWII
7. Interwar I 14. TBA
8. Interwar II

Assignments
1. Weekly readings.
2. Two primary source analyses. (One page each)
3. Final paper or digital humanities project.
   • Analytical five-page paper on one of three provided topics.
   • Group project using digital technologies to present data in innovative and informative format.

4. Textbook
None. All readings will be made available through the class website.
5. Reference Materials
To supplement your knowledge of Japanese history as needed, I recommend the library’s electronic copy of:


6. Evaluation
Monday attendance 35%
Source analyses 30% (15% each)
Final paper/project 35%

7. Additional Information
Academic honesty
Plagiarism (using someone’s work without giving credit) is a serious intellectual and academic offense. When in doubt, cite.

For additional information, please reference the program policy statement.
PDF @: http://www.lit.nagoya-u.ac.jp/english/g30/