

# Modern Japanese History 2025 Prospectus

**Course ID:** Hist 0560/EALC 0750

**Term:** Spring 2025

**Instructor:** Frederick Dickinson

**Status:** This is a flipped classroom (pre-recorded lectures  
+ in-class discussion)



## Course Description:

This course will survey the dramatic story of transformation from feudal to modern Japan. It fulfills the College Requirement in **History and Tradition** and the College Foundational Requirement in **Cross Cultural Analysis**. In addition to providing a general narrative of events from 1600 to the present, it will expose students to fundamental principles of historical and cross-cultural analysis. Following the **History and Tradition** requirement, students will learn to interpret primary sources, to understand how knowledge is constructed, and to recognize how interpretive frameworks change over time. Following the **Cross Cultural Analysis** requirement, students will learn how to interpret developments outside the historical and cultural framework of the United States.

## Class Structure

- Weekly asynchronous activity (to complete BEFORE weekly synchronous sessions):
  - **Three** types of Readings (Main text, supplemental reading, primary sources)
  - **Two** pre-recorded lectures, up to 30 min. each
  - **One** weekly quiz
  - **One** weekly question OR answer submitted to appropriate discussion folder
- Weekly synchronous sessions:
  - **One** weekly 1-hour synchronous discussion with professor
  - **One** weekly 1-hour synchronous discussion with TA

## Outline of Assignments & Assessments

- 25% Lectures (5 X 12 points = 60 points TOTAL):
  - **Two** weekly pre-recorded lectures (1 pt each [no pts for less than 60% viewed])
  - **One** weekly quiz (3 pts each week)
- 25% Participation (5 X 12 = 60 points TOTAL):
  - **One** weekly question OR answer to appropriate discussion folder (1 pts)
  - **One** weekly synchronous (live) discussion (2 pts)
  - **One** weekly recitation with TA (2 pts)
- 25% Writing (60 points TOTAL):
  - **One** in-class reading analysis (one-paragraph) each week (4 X 12)
  - **One** wiki **OR** news submission (6 pts)
  - **One** 1-page analysis of East Asia-related Penn public talk (6 pts)
- 25% Final analysis (60 points TOTAL)
  - **One** powerpoint exercise (10 pts)
  - **One** take-home final (50 pts)

## Course Readings

- The following texts will be available through Penn Bookstore:  
[www.upenn.edu/bookstore](http://www.upenn.edu/bookstore)
  - Kokichi Katsu, *Musui's Story* (1843)
  - Ōgai Mori, *The Wild Geese* (1911-3)
  - Junichirō Tanizaki, *Naomi* (1924)
  - Kazuko Kuramoto, *Manchurian Legacy* (1999)
  - Sayaka Murata, *Convenience Store Woman* (2018)

