

EAJ 395
A History of Women in Modern Japan
Fall 2008
Course #9543

Instructor: David Eason
Class Meetings: MW 4:15-5:35pm, Business Administration Room #224
Office Hours: MWF 2:45-3:45pm
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Overview

This course traces the complex history of women's actions and experiences in the context of the dynamic and ever-changing history of modern Japan. In this class we will examine the lives of an economic, politically, and socially diverse group of women ranging from factory workers to actresses and from violent, self-proclaimed revolutionaries and anarchists to powerful, democratically elected political leaders. In short, this class aims to highlight the variety of women's experiences through a close look at some of the many texts and images both produced and consumed by women in modern Japan. Furthermore, in order to gain a better grasp of the opportunities and challenges faced by women in Japan at the start of the modern period in the late 1860s, we will also spend the first few weeks of class briefly examining women's place in society during the preceding Edo period, with particular attention paid to differences in social class and family structure. Thereafter we will continue to proceed within an historical, largely chronological framework to closely explore a number of major themes that include domesticity, production, consumerism and sexuality, as well as the ways in which the ideas and practices associated with each continue to shift and change over time.

This class will devote large amounts of time to in-class discussions surrounding these many issues relating to women's history. In addition, a great deal of emphasis will also be placed on preparing students to undertake research on a topic of their own choosing. In order to further both of these goals it is therefore essential that students come to class prepared, having read the assigned texts and, when required, submitted a well thought-out written response to the readings in advance. Consistent, carefully reading of the assigned texts accompanied by engaged, active participation in the discussions held during our twice-weekly meetings will make for a more lively, educational, and – dare I say it – enjoyable class for all involved.

Required Texts (Available for Purchase at the Campus Bookstore)

Mackie, Vera. *Feminism in Modern Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2003.

Laura Miller and Jan Bardsley, ed. *Bad Girls of Japan*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Hane, Mikiso. *Reflections on the Way to the Gallows: Rebel Women in Prewar Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

Course Requirements

Class Participation – 20%

Reading Responses (8) – 20%

Take-Home “Midterm” (Essay, 4-5 pages) – 15%

– Due 10/6/2008 –

Research Paper - Annotated Bibliography – 7.5%

Research Paper – Thesis and Outline – 7.5%

Final Draft of Research Paper (10-12 pages) – 30%

– Due 12/11/2008 –

Grading Policies and Guidelines

1) Letter grades are assigned in accordance with the following scale:

93-100=A; 92-90=A-; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 80-82=B-; 77-79=C+; 73-76=C;
70-72=C-; 67-69=D+; 63-66=D; 60-62=D-; 0-59=E.

Work not turned in will be counted as a zero (0).

- 2) Late papers will be marked down a grade for each day late (ie. an “A” paper turned in two days late will become a “B+”).
- 3) There is no extra credit offered for this course. Do not ask for any.
- 4) “Incompletes” will only be given in the case of an emergency (sudden death in the family, serious illness) and require thorough written documentation.
- 5) Plagiarism is a serious offense. Students who use the words and ideas of others in their written work without providing citations to the original source (s) will be given a zero (0) for the assignment along with a copy of an official “Violation of Academic Integrity Report” to be sent to the Chair of the Department of East Asian Studies, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Vice-Provost for Undergraduate Affairs. If you have any doubts concerning what constitutes plagiarism you are to consult with me BEFORE submitting an assignment. For more information concerning the University’s policies in regards to plagiarism and academic dishonesty in general, see the University at Albany Undergraduate Academic Regulations located on the web at – http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html for further details.

Weekly Readings and Reading Response Assignments

Reading responses are due during eight of the fifteen weeks that this class meets. These responses, which are to be submitted via email no later than 8am on the day that the class meets, are to consist of the following:


Two paragraphs, the first of which provides an overview of the main argument(s) made in the reading under consideration, followed by two or three sentences that discuss the evidence used by the author to support his or her conclusions.



The second paragraph should be devoted to a detailed analysis of the reading.

Here you should explain whether you found the author effective in stating and proving his or her case. You might also include within this paragraph any questions, doubts, or problems you encountered during the reading. Finally, you should devote at least two or three sentences to discussing how the present reading relates to some of the larger themes covered in class or already touched upon in previously assigned articles.

Class Schedule

All assigned readings are listed under “Readings” on the right-hand side of the schedule below.

-  indicates material available through the library’s Electronic Reserve
- Assigned readings enclosed by two asterisks (*) indicate that a reading response for this item is due in my email inbox no later than 8am on the day of class

Week #1	Themes	Readings
8/25 Mon.	Introductions	
8/27 Wed.	Women’s History	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 1-14 <i>Bad Girls of Japan</i> , pp. 1-13
Week #2	Themes	Readings
9/1 Mon.	No Class	
9/3 Wed.	Edo Period Paternalism	*  “Women and Changes in the Household Division of Labor,” pp. 17-41*
Week #3	Themes	Readings
9/8 Mon.	Early Modern Families	 “The Life Cycle of Farm Women in Tokugawa Japan,” pp. 42-70
9/10 Wed.	Prostitutes and Geisha	* <i>Bad Girls of Japan</i> , pp. 33-47*
Week #4	Themes	Readings

9/15	Mon.	The Meiji Restoration	* ^{ER} “Dancing at the Rokumeikan,” pp. 157-177*
9/17	Wed.	Early Women Reformers	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 15-44 ^{ER} “Daughters in Boxes,” pp. 62-71
Week #5			Themes
Week #5			Readings
9/22	Mon.	The Meiji Household	^{ER} “At Home in the Meiji Period,” pp. 191-207
9/24	Wed.	Female Factory Workers	<i>Reflections on the Way to the Gallows</i> , pp. 175-212
Week #6			Themes
Week #6			Readings
9/29	Mon.	No Class	
10/1	Wed.	No Class	
Week #7			Themes
Week #7			Readings
10/6	Mon.	Meiji Schoolgirls	<i>Bad Girls of Japan</i> , pp. 49-63 { Take-Home Midterm Due }
10/8	Wed.	No Class	<i>Reflections on the Way to the Gallows</i> , pp. 161-174
Week #8			Themes
Week #8			Readings
10/13	Mon.	Women’s Words	* ^{ER} “Women’s Language in the Meiji and Taishō Periods,” pp. 57-74*
10/15	Wed.	Bluestockings	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 45-72
Week #9			Themes
Week #9			Readings
10/20	Mon.	The Modern Girl	* ^{ER} “The Modern Girl as Militant,”

10/22	Wed.	The National Body	pp. 239-266* ^{ER} “Motherhood in the Interest of the State,” pp. 40-56
Week #10			Themes
10/27	Mon.	Women and War	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 99-119
10/29	Wed.	Colonial Women	* ^{ER} “The Course and Conditions of the Establishment of the Military Comfort Station System,” pp. 33-75*
Week #11			Themes
11/3	Mon.	Women at War’s End	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 120-143
11/5	Wed.	The Family System	^{ER} “Marriage and Family: Past and Present,” pp. 183-197 {Annotated Bibliography Due}
Week #12			Themes
11/10	Mon.	The Feminist Movement	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 144-173
11/12	Wed.	Women and Politics	^{ER} “The Madonna Boom,” pp. 103-120
Week #13			Themes
11/17	Mon.	Cutie Culture	* ^{ER} “Cuties in Japan,” pp. 220-254*
11/19	Wed.	High-end Consumerism	<i>Bad Girls of Japan</i> , pp. 111-125
Week #14			Themes
11/24	Mon.	The OL	^{ER} “Altered States,” pp. 347-372 {Thesis and Outline Due}
11/26	Wed.	No Class	

Week #15	Themes	Readings
12/1 Mon.	Contemporary Families	Ⓔ “Producing Mothers,” pp. 135-155
12/3 Wed.	Global Currents	<i>Feminism in Modern Japan</i> , pp. 202-231 *Ⓔ “The Language of Esute,” pp. 176-194*
Week #16	Themes	Readings
12/8 Mon.	Then and Now	<i>Bad Girls of Japan</i> , pp. 192-196

** In lieu of a final exam, in this course the **final research paper** will be due by 1pm on the date otherwise set aside for the final, Thursday, December 11, 2008.