



## MSc and MPhil in Japanese Studies 2020/2021

### ***Modern Transnational History of Japan***

Professor Sho Konishi, History Faculty and the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

#### **Course Description:**

*Eight Lectures and Eight Classes in Hilary Term*

This graduate course offers a broad introduction to the critical cultural and intellectual history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japan in transnational and global perspectives. The course lectures incorporate various methods, approaches, theories, and concepts that could be applied to re-examine and posit the time and space of 'modern Japan' against existing paradigms, while also serving as an introduction to the transnational and intellectual history at large. By the end of the course, you will have acquired foundational knowledge and skills to open up new directions in modern Japanese history writing.

All students will submit 2 pieces of written work for assessment in Weeks 4 and 9 of the term in which the classes are taught. Details will be given during the first class of the term.

#### **Format:**

The course consists of a combination of lectures, discussions, student presentations, and writing assignments. The class will be assigned core readings. Students will also select additional readings based on interest that deepen our knowledge of the week's theme, on which one or more students will make a presentation each week.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- Introduce the philosophy of history and understandings of transnational history and the history of ideas/knowledge as they relate to modern Japan
- Acquire knowledge of problems, methods, and paradigms in the historiography on modern Japan
- Develop skills of analysis and interpretation of historical texts and contexts
- Produce a scheme for a future study of potentially publishable quality

#### **Required Readings to Prepare for the Course:**

Sho Konishi, *Anarchist Modernity*

Akira Iriye, *Cultural Internationalism and World Order*

**Recommended Readings to Prepare for the Course:**

Robert J. Richards, *Debating Darwin*

Lydia Liu ed., *Tokens of Exchange*

Samuel Moyn and Andrew Sartori, *Global Intellectual History*

Friedrich Nietzsche, *On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life*

Paul Ricoeur, *Hermeneutics and the Human Sciences: Essays on Language, Action and Interpretation*

Felix Guattari and Gilles Deleuze, *A Thousand Plateaus*

V. N. Volosinov, *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*

Arthur Lovejoy, *The Great Chain of Being*.

**Statement of Coverage**

This document applies to students starting the MSc and/or MPhil in Japanese Studies in Michaelmas Term 2020. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

**Disclaimer**

The information in this document is accurate as at 28 September 2020, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.