



MSc and MPhil in Japanese Studies 2021/2022

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 Michaelmas 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 perspective. 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 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.

Format:

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

Course Assessment:

The main assessment will be through a three-hour examination in Trinity Term.

All students will be required to submit 2 pieces of written work for assessment, one by the end of week 4 and the other in week 9 of the term in which they are taught.

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

Recommended Readings to Prepare for the Course:

Sho Konishi, *Anarchist Modernity*

Robert J. Richards, *Debating Darwin*

Daniel Nettle and Suzanne Romaine, *Vanishing Voices, The Extinction of the World's Languages*

Paolo Virno, *An Essay on Negation*

Statement of Coverage

This document applies to students starting the MSc and/or MPhil in Japanese Studies in Michaelmas Term 2021. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

Disclaimer

The information in this document is accurate as at 07 September 2021, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at 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.