

Modern Transnational History of Japan 2017-2018

Professor Sho Konishi, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

Eight Lectures and Eight Classes in Michaelmas Term

Course Description:

This graduate course offers a broad introduction to the cultural and intellectual history of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Japan in transnational and global perspectives. The course introduces various methods, approaches, theories, and concepts that could be applied to re-examine the time and space of 'modern Japan', 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 and 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*