



ARSD College, University of Delhi

Model Course Handout/Lesson Plan

Course Name : B.A. Hons. HISTORY						
Semester	Course Code	Course Title	Lecture (L)	Tutorial (T)	Practical (P)	Credit (C)
VI		HISTORY OF MODERN JAPAN (C1868-1950s)	5	1		5+1
Teacher/Instructor(s)		MIHIR KUMAR JHA				
Session		2022-23				

Course Objective:

The course studies the transition of Japan from quasi-feudalism to a modern industrialised capitalist nation. It focuses on the political and economic strategies adopted by Japan to meet the challenges posed by western imperialistic intrusions. It facilitates an understanding of Japan's emergence as a major non-European power within an international order dominated by western imperial powers. It studies the trajectory of Japan towards ultra-nationalism and militarism in the context of a failed parliamentary democracy, eventually leading to disaster in the Second World War. The course aims to pay close attention to historiographical shifts in all topics, contextualising these against the backdrop of their contemporary history and politics. Adequate attention is given to the study of social and cultural aspects with a special emphasis on the role of women in late 19th and early 20th century Japan.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course the student shall be able to:

- Explain Japan's attempts to create new institutional structures and recast traditions to encounter challenges of the west.
- Analyse historiographical shifts in Japanese history in the context of global politics.
- Examine the divergent pathways to modernity followed by Japan.
- Examine distinct perspectives on imperialism and nationalism in East Asia, and understand how historiographical approaches are shaped by their contexts.

- Conceptualise how these distinct histories can be rooted in common cultural traditions.
- Locate and contextualise the history of Japan in world politics.
- Critically discuss contemporary international studies with much greater clarity based on the knowledge of history and culture of Japan.

Lesson Plan:

Unit No.	Learning Objective	Lecture No.	Topics to be covered
1.	This unit will introduce student to the history of Japan from its transitions from feudalism to Capitalism. The Unit will also examine historical process which led to Meiji Restoration and its impact on the economy of Japan.	1	Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism
		2-6	Crisis of the Tokugawa Bakuhan System
		7-12	The Meiji Restoration : Nature and Significance; Early Meiji Reforms
		13-18	Economic Development in the Meiji Era Agrarian Settlement Industrialisation and Capitalism
2.	This unit deals with emergence and growth of democratic governance in Japan. Role of popular rights movements, polemics of Meiji constitution, and failure of democracy and subsequent rise of Militarism has been examined in this unit.	19	Democracy and Militarism
		20-22	Popular Rights Movement
		23-26	Women’s Rights in the Meiji Era
		27-30	Meiji Constitution
		31-33	Failure of Parliamentary Democracy; Militarism and Fascism
3.	This unit will enable students to understand the imperialistic design of Japan and the role of nationalism in its conception. This unit will examine the nature and consequences of Japanese colonialism over China and Manchuria. It also	34	Imperialistic Expansion and Resistance
		35-36	Imperialism and Japanese Nationalism
		37-40	Expansion in China and Manchuria
		41-45	Colonisation of Korea and Korean Nationalism

	deals with Japanese colonialism over Korea and the growth of Korean Nationalism		
4.	This unit deals with the period between the two World wars and the subsequent history of Japan. The American occupation of Japan after World War-II and the post war reconstruction has been examined in this unit.	46-50	American Occupation, post-War Reconstruction and “Reverse Course”

Evaluation Scheme:

No.	Component	Duration	Marks
1.	Internal Assessment		25
	• Class Test		
	• Attendance		
	• Assignment		
2.	End Semester Examination	3 hr	75

Details of the Course		
Unit	Contents	Contact Hours
1	Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism a. Crisis of the Tokugawa Bakuhan System b. The Meiji Restoration : Nature and Significance; Early Meiji Reforms c. Economic Development in the Meiji Era Agrarian Settlement Industrialisation and Capitalism	18
2	Democracy and Militarism a. Popular Rights Movement b. Women’s Rights in the Meiji Era c. Meiji Constitution d. Failure of Parliamentary Democracy; Militarism and Fascism	15

3	Imperialistic Expansion and Resistance a. Imperialism and Japanese Nationalism b. Expansion in China and Manchuria c. Colonisation of Korea and Korean Nationalism	12
4	American Occupation, post-War Reconstruction and “Reverse Course”	5
	Total	50

Suggested Books:

Sl. No.	Name of Authors/Books/Publishers	Year of Publication/Reprint
1	Gordon, A. (2003). A Modern History of Japan- From Tokugawa Times to the Present. New York: Oxford University Press, Chapters 3- The Intellectual World of Late Tokugawa & Chapter 4- Overthrow of the Tokugawa.	2003
2	Hall, J.W. (1970). Japan from Pre-history to Modern Times. Centre for Japanese Studies, the University of Michigan. Chapter 13- The Meiji Restoration and Its Meaning.	1970
3	Moore Jr., Barrington. (2015). Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy, Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World. Boston: Beacon Press.	2015
4	Fairbank, J.K., E.O. Reischauer and A. M. Craig. (1998). East Asia: Tradition and Transformation. New Jersey: Houghton Mifflin. Chapter 23- Imperial Japan: Democracy and Militarism.	1998
5	Gordon, A. (2003). A Modern History of Japan- From Tokugawa Times to the Present. New York: Oxford University Press. pp 88-91.	2003

Mode of Evaluation:

Internal Assessment / End Semester Exam
