HIST 3090 Tokyo: History & Image

Term Project Guidelines

The guidelines for your final project are purposefully loose. You're having a good deal of directed short writings through the Think Pieces, so I would like the final project to be something you define and have a keen interest if not burning passion to research and write about. Your topic merely needs to be about some aspect of Tokyo that I approve. My approval is based on your topic's relevance to the course and feasibility in realizing your proposal.

Your topic can range from something more historical to something more contemporary and might span various disciplines (history, literature, anthropology, sociology, media studies, geography, etc.). It might focus on physical manifestations of the city or on forms of culture the cityscape generates. Examples might be the past and present of a particular neighborhood in Tokyo; transportation; department stores; fashion districts; financial districts; bars; red light districts; festivals; the homeless and day laborers; parks; sports facilities; rivers and canals; LGBT Tokyo; yakuza turf; various forms of mapping of the city and its information; Tokyo on film (beyond what we watched in class); Tokyo in manga/anime; Tokyo in the eyes of non-Japanese writers or photographers or filmmakers, etc. There is so much that is possible—think broadly.

You should treat this project as you would a formal research paper, but depending on your topic there can be some latitude in the final form it takes. If you're the digital type, a web-based presentation could be acceptable, for example. If you're literarily inclined, treating Tokyo-related literature is a possibility. Something that might include architectural drawings or models is all right. A visual component is not necessarily required, but since this course is "History & Image" you might take advantage of that and consider how images might be included. Etc. If you end up writing a traditional research paper (and most of you will), aim for 8-10 pages, plus formal citations and bibliography of consulted sources (print and online) done in Chicago style (there are online style guides for this).

Use the syllabus for ideas, but I expect you to go beyond the syllabus and offer something that we are not treating directly in class or that there remains more to say about.

Schedule and Grading for Tokyo Project Parts

February 7 (Tuesday):   One-page draft proposal; meetings through following week (2 points)

March 2 (Thursday):   Detailed outline and working bibliography (3 points)

April 4 (Tuesday):   Draft of at least 3-4 pages of representative section (10 points)

April 11-20:   Brief (10 minute) presentations on project in class

May 1 (Monday):   Final draft due by 3PM (55 points)