

History 3090
TOKYO: History & Image

Spring 2017 TR 9:35-10:50 in BT 222
Office hours: TR 11-12:30

Prof. Gerald Figal
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Course manifesto

We will explore the city of Tokyo and its representation in various media from the 19th-century to the future. Beginning with its premodern foundations as Edo, part one of the course follows the development of its urban form and structure as it transformed from the capital of the Tokugawa shōguns into a modern city destroyed twice in the twentieth century, first by earthquake and then by war. The second part of the course analyzes postwar Tokyo's history and image in film, novels, essays, and other textual and visual materials produced within and beyond Japan. It is in this context where "Tokyo" jumps from being a physical historical place to becoming a symbolic and metaphorical site of nostalgic reveries, monstrous nightmares, visionary imagination, and high-tech wonder.

Course materials (all required)

Sōseki, *Sanshirō*

Kawabata, *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa*

Rogers (ed.), *Tokyo Stories*

Sacchi, *Tokyo: City + Architecture*

Mansfield, *Tokyo: A Cultural History*

Hiroshige's *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*

(available online at: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/features/edo>)

Electronic Readings (ER) on course web site at: <http://www.figal-sensei.org/home/hist-3090-readings/>

Plus various films and web-based maps, artwork, and photos

Course website main page at: <http://www.figal-sensei.org/home/hist-3090-tokyo-history-and-image/>

Course work

(Final grade based on 200-point system)

1 Map Exercise (graded as part of participation)

5 Think Pieces are short writings dealing with primary and secondary sources, 16 points each.

1 Short Essay on the films, 20 points.

1 Term Project, 70 points total. See guidelines in Handouts section of web site for details

Attendance and quality class participation (including presentation of materials), 30 points

Every student will have the opportunity to lead discussion on one of the readings. Punctual, regular attendance and active participation are required, especially given the small seminar-style format of this course. I reserve the right to administer unannounced diagnostic tests if it seems that course material preparation is lacking.

NOTE: FILM SCREENINGS outside of class time are on designated Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00-9:30PM, venue to be announced later.

The Vanderbilt Honor Code applies to all aspects of this course

TRAJECTORY

WEEK 1 (1/10-12):

ORIENTATIONS: Cities as Physical, Social, and Symbolic Spaces

Tu. Reading: Sacchi, *Tokyo: City and Architecture*, pp. 7-37 ("Intro" & "The Global City")

Th. Reading: Sacchi, *Tokyo: City and Architecture*, pp. 39-73 ("History")
Mansfield, *Tokyo: A Cultural History*, chapters 1-2 (recommended)

Task: **MAP EXERCISE:** Begin to explore the layout of modern Tokyo via the maps that appear in the readings and especially in the detailed Google Maps organized at: <http://www.maphill.com/japan/kanto/tokyo/>
Be able to locate at least these landmarks and areas, but the more the better: Tokyo Tower; Imperial Palace; National Diet Building; Meiji Jingu; Hamarikyu Gardens; University of Tokyo; Sumida River; Tokyo Sky Tree; Nihonbashi; Ryōgoku Bridge; Sensōji (temple); Hanayashiki Amusement Park; Tokyo Disneyland; Haneda Airport ; Asakusa; Ginza Core; Tsukiji (fish market); Shibuya Crossing; Harajuku Station; Shinjuku Station; Ueno (Station/Park/Zoo); Akihabara ('Electric Town'/anime/gaming mecca); Tokyo Station; Yamanote Train Line; Ginza Subway Line; Chuo Train Line
Accumulate cartographic knowledge of Tokyo weekly; **on 2/28 you will share it.**

WEEK 2 (1/17-19):

PRE-MODERN TOKYO: Deep Historical Structures

Tu. Reading: Jinnai, "The Spatial Structure of Edo" (ER)

Smith, "Sky and Water: The Deep Structures of Tokyo" (ER)

Sacchi, *Tokyo: City and Architecture*, pp. 75-99 ("The Urban Structure")

Mansfield, *Tokyo: A Cultural History*, chapters 3-4 (recommended)

Th. Reading: Smith, "Introduction" *Hiroshige, One Hundred Famous Views of Edo* (ER)

Visual Documents: Hiroshige's *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*

(available online at: <https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/features/edo>)

Prints and Descriptions: 1-4, 7-8, 10-11, 17-19, 21-28, 37-38, 43-48, 55-62, 64-66, 73-77, 80-82, 86-87, 90, 98-101, 106-107, 111-115, 118.

Also: Read sidebars about Hiroshige on the website.

WEEK 3 (1/24-26):

MODERNIZING TOKYO: Edo-Tokyo Transition

Tu. Reading: Smith, "The Edo-Tokyo Transition" (ER)

Mansfield, *Tokyo: A Cultural History*, chapter 5 (recommended)

Th. Reading: Smith, "Tokyo as an Idea" (ER) — pages 45-68

Viewing: Woodblock Prints of Meiji Tokyo online at: <http://goo.gl/WHIDC>

Photographs of Meiji Tokyo online at meijishowa.com:

<http://goo.gl/vw6sw5>

Once at the page, filter with "City Views" to view the 83 photographs.

Think Piece 1: Choose 4-6 images from the above prints and photographs and discuss them in the context of Smith's approach to Tokyo from pages 53 to 68 of his essay "Tokyo as an Idea" (the sections I and II "Restoration Tokyo: The City as a Showcase, 1868-1900" and "Streetcar Tokyo: The City as a Problem, 1895-1923"). Make it about 900 words and bring it to class.

(Start *Sanshirō* this week to have it finished by Tuesday 1/31)

WEEK 4 (1/31-2/2):

Tu. Reading:

Th. Reading:

COMING-OF-AGE TOKYO: Navigating Physical and Social SpaceSōseki, *Sanshirō* (all)

Freedman, "Boys Who Feared Trains: University Students, Railway Trauma, and the Health of the Nation" (ER)

Think Piece 2: Point out and briefly discuss how Sanshirō and/or other characters in Sōseki's novel experience Tokyo as a new kind of physical and social space. Make it about 900 words and bring it to class.

WEEK 5 (2/7-9):

Tu. Reading:

Viewing:

Task:

Th. Reading:

Viewing:

MODAN TOKYO IMansfield, *Tokyo: A Cultural History*, chapter 6

Weisenfeld, "Imaging Disaster: Tokyo and the Visual Culture of Japan's Great Earthquake of 1923" (ER)

Photographs of Taisho Tokyo online at: <http://goo.gl/jvD0SX>**One-page draft proposal for Term Project due**Ulak, "Tokyo Modern : Koizumi Kishio's '100 Views' of the Imperial Capital (1928-1940)" (at: <https://goo.gl/A8Uwia>)Koizumi Kishio's "100 Views of Great Tokyo in the Shōwa Era" (<http://goo.gl/oWjul>)

Think Piece 3: Using the information and images provided on the "Tokyo Modern" website (<http://goo.gl/oWjul>), conduct a brief comparative analysis of Koizumi's "100 Views" in light of Hiroshige's "100 Views." Make it about 600 words and bring it to class.

WEEK 6 (2/14-16):

Tu. Reading:

Th. Reading:

MODAN TOKYO IIKawabata, *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (Forward, Preface, pp. 3-119)Mansfield, *Tokyo: A Cultural History*, chapter 7Kawabata, *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* (finish)

Maeda, "Asakusa as Theater" (ER)

Think Piece 4: Select one substantial section from *The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa* and discuss how it exemplifies Maeda's idea of "Asakusa as theater." Make it about 900 words and bring it to class.

WEEK 7 (2/21-23):

Tu. Reading:

Th. Reading:

TOKYO STORIES: Prewar

Sōseki, "From Behind the Study Door"; Kajii, "Mire" and

Yumeno, "Terrifying Tokyo" in *Tokyo Stories*Rampō, "Doctor Mera's Mysterious Crimes" (ER); Takeda, "The Image" and "The First Day of the Fair" in *Tokyo Stories*

Think Piece 5: Select two of the short stories from week 7 and compare their physical descriptions and their metaphorical use of the city. Make it about 900 words and bring it to class.

WEEK 8 (2/28-3/2):

Tu. Reading:

TOKYO STORIES: WartimeIntro to Tokyo Air Raids at: <http://www.japanairraids.org>"Tokyo WWII firebombing, the single most deadly bombing raid in history, remembered 70 years on" and listen to report at: <https://goo.gl/KtGLbU>

Fedman & Karacas, "A cartographic fade to black: mapping the destruction of urban Japan during WWII" (ER)

Task:	MAP EXERCISE Show ‘n Tell in class
Th. Viewing:	Tokyo raid damage photographs from U.S. National Archives at: http://www.japanairraids.org/?page_id=2769 Tokyo then-and-now photographs at: https://goo.gl/sScfjY
Task:	Outline and working bibliography for Term Project due

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WEEK 9 (3/14-3/16): TOKYO STORIES: Postwar

Tu. Reading:	Rampō, “The Air Raid Shelter” (ER); Mishima, “Fountains in the Rain”; Mukōda, “Meeting Again”; and Hino, “Jacob’s Tokyo Ladder” in <i>TS Mansfield, Tokyo: A Cultural History</i> , chapter 8
Th. Reading:	Sata, “Elegy”; Hayashi, “The Old Part of Town”; Kafū, “Azuma Bridge” in <i>Tokyo Stories</i>

WEEK 10 (3/21-23): TOKYO IN FILM I: During Occupation

Tu. Viewing:	Peruse the photos of Occupied Tokyo at: http://www.pinterest.com/marikonagai/occupied-city-tokyo-1945-1952/ and write a one-page response to what you see and bring it to class.
Film:	<i>One Wonderful Sunday</i> (<i>Subarashiki nichiyōbi</i>) [Kurosawa, 1947] (Mon 3/20)
Th. Film:	<i>Stray Dog</i> (<i>Nora-inu</i>) [Kurosawa, 1949] (Wed 3/22)

WEEK 11 (3/28-30): TOKYO IN FILM II: Women in Early Postwar

Tu. Film:	<i>Street of Shame</i> (<i>Akasen chitai</i>) [Mizoguchi, 1956] (Mon 3/27)
Th. Film:	<i>When a Woman Ascends the Stairs</i> (<i>Onna ga kaidan o agaru toki</i>) [Naruse, 1960] (Wed 3/29)

WEEK 12 (4/4-6): TOKYO IN FILM III: Apocalyptic Imagination

Tu. Reading:	Tsutsui, “Oh No, There Goes Tokyo: Recreational Apocalypse and the City in Postwar Japanese Popular Culture” (ER)
Film:	<i>Godzilla</i> (<i>Gojira</i>) [Honda, 1954] (Mon 4/3) ; scenes from disaster films in class.
Task:	Draft of at least 4 pages of representation section of Term Project due
Th. Reading:	Napier, “Panic Sites: The Japanese Imagination of Disaster from <i>Godzilla</i> to <i>Akira</i> ” (ER)
Film:	<i>Akira</i> [Otomo, 1988] (Wed 4/5)

Short Essay: Write a short (about 1200 word) essay discussing the ways in which the city figures in *three* of the films, one each from weeks 10, 11, and 12. You might discuss such things as how the physical space of the city is depicted and used; the connections between the city and characters; the psychological, symbolic, or emotional dimensions the city evokes, etc.

WEEK 13 (4/11-13): GLOBAL TOKYO

Tu. Reading:	Sacchi, chapters 5-6 (pp. 103-135)
Th. Reading:	Sacchi, chapters 7 (pp. 137-232)
Film:	<i>Lost in Translation</i> [S. Coppola, 2003] (Wed 4/12)

WEEKS 14 (4/18-20): FUTURE TOKYO

Tu. Reading:	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i> part 1 (ER); “My Own Private Tokyo” (ER)
Th. Thinking:	Restoration Tokyo; “Your Own Private Tokyo” (Short writing for final session)
	Term Project Due by 3PM, Monday, May 1