

EACS 14

ENVIRONMENT & POWER IN JAPAN

SPRING 2016

Professor ann-elise lewallen (lewallen@eastasian.ucsb.edu)

MON/WED 12:30-1:45pm Classroom: PHELPS 2516

Office Hours: Wed 2:00-4:00 (HSSB 2256)

Course Overview

What is the relationship between forms of power and environmental health in Japan? How do traditional values and practices influence contemporary ecologies? In this course we will trace the history of ideas about the natural world, human-animal-environment relations, and apply social science theories to assess contemporary environmental issues in Japan. The rubric of “power” will serve as a tool to help us interrogate and better understand how inequality and hierarchy, politics, economics, structural patterns, and ecosystems shape Japanese relationships with natural and unnatural landscapes in the present.

Our exploration of Japan’s environment and its political moorings will be informed by study of the horrendous disaster which initially shook Japan on March 11, 2011. On this day, Japan was hit by a devastating magnitude 9 earthquake followed by a *tsunami* which left some 20,000+ persons missing or dead in its wake. Shortly after the quake, one of Japan’s largest nuclear reactors, Fukushima Daiichi, lost electricity in its backup generators leading to a triple meltdown and the leakage of massive amounts of radiation across the archipelago, which continues today. The effects of this disaster are still unfolding. As students of Japan, this disaster raises a number of issues and reveals certain patterns in political, economic, social and energy infrastructure, and helps us to understand the resilience of the Japanese people from a new perspective. This course will foster enhanced critical thinking, to provide us with tools to reflect on received knowledge and approaches to learning.

Course Requirements. You are responsible for the course text and the electronic materials, which will be posted on Gauchospace.

- 1) **JNE** *Japan at Nature’s Edge: The Environmental Context of a Global Power*: Walker, Thomas, and Miller
- 2) **ESJ** *Environment and Society in the Japanese Islands: From Prehistory to the Present*: Batten and Brown
- 3) **GS** = GauchoSpace, for readings posted on Gauchospace

A note on the syllabus: This syllabus is subject to change as things shift over the course of the quarter. Please check Gauchospace and watch your in-box to take note of changes in the syllabus. Thanks! ☺

Course Assignments:

- 1) **SECTION: Participation & Attendance (30 points)**
- 2) **LECTURE: Participation & Attendance through Gauchospace Forum (10 points)**
- 3) **Midterm Quiz (15 points) Please bring blue books for the midterm quiz. Midterm: April 27**
- 4) **Final Quiz (20 points) Please bring blue books for the final quiz. Final: June 1.**
- 5) **Final Project (ZINE!) (25 points) Please submit to Prof lewallen’s office in HSSB 2256, Tuesday, May 31 by 5pm at the latest.**

Expectations: (1) All students are accountable for following UCSB's guidelines for academic integrity (see <http://hep.ucsb.edu/people/hnn/conduct/disq.html>).

(2) Attendance is required at all classes. An excused absence will be allowed in the case of a health or family emergency.

(3) To receive course credit, students must complete all of the work assigned.

(4) Late papers will not be accepted unless the student has made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Communication: I will communicate with you EXCLUSIVELY through your UMAIL account, including correspondence from Gauchospace and all assignments and updates. You are responsible for all of these messages and communications. Please ensure that you check these messages regularly. Messages will be sent from Gauchospace, but please reply to lewallen@eastasian.ucsb.edu.

Classroom Contract: STUDENTS SEEN TEXTING WILL BE MARKED ABSENT FOR THAT DAY. Disruptive behavior (including TEXTING, web-surfing, etc.) will not be tolerated. I make an effort to prepare a stimulating classroom experience for each class meeting and it is disrespectful for you to spend your course time on your phone. I will treat you as adults and expect the same in return.

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Japan's Environmental History: Relationships with Land

March 28: Introduction to the course

March 30: JNE Ch. 5: "Constructing Nature" Philip C. Brown, pages 90-114

GS: Morris-Suzuki, "Nature," in *Re-inventing Japan: Nation, Culture, Identity*

WEEK 2: Historical Disasters: Typhoons, Quakes, Floods, Landslides

April 4: ESJ Ch. 1: Barnes, Gina, "Vulnerable Japan: The Tectonic Setting of Life in the Archipelago"

ESJ Ch. 3: Smits, Gregory, "Earthquakes as Social Drama in the Tokugawa Period"

April 6: GS: Beck, Ulrich, "On the Logic of Wealth Distribution and Risk Distribution," from *Risk Society*, 19-50

WEEK 3: Climate and its impact on Japanese Society

April 11: ESJ Ch. 10: "A History of Climatic Change in Japan," Takehiko Mikami, Masumi Zaiki, and Junpei Hirano, 197-212.

Choose 2 of the following to prepare for section debates on climate change solutions (in Japan and elsewhere):

Kharecha, Pushkar and James Hansen. "Prevented Mortality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Historical and Projected Nuclear Power." *Environmental Science and Technology*, December 14, 2012.

Article from *the Guardian*: Can Japan's Climate Policy get back on track after Fukushima?

(<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2015/apr/17/can-japans-climate-policy-get-back-on-track-after-fukushima>)

Greenpeace policy paper: "Nuclear Power and Climate Change"

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/Global/international/briefings/climate/COP21/Nuclear-Power-and-Climate-Change.pdf>

April 13: ESJ Ch. 12: "The Climatic Dilemmas of Built Environments: Tokyo, Heat Islands, and Urban Adaptation," Scott O'Bryan, 230-245

WEEK 4: Unnatural Disasters: Industrial Pollution

April 18: GS: Walker, "Mercury's Offspring," in *Toxic Archipelago*

JNE CH. 6 "Toroku: Mountain Dreams, Chemical Nightmares," Timothy S. George, pages 115-136

April 20:

JNE Ch. 12: "Japanese Environmental Policy: Lessons from Experience and Remaining Problems," Ken'ichi Miyamoto, pages 222-254

WEEK 5: Ainu Relationships with the *Kamuy* (Spiritual Beings)

MONDAY, APRIL 25: MIDTERM QUIZ

April 27: GS: Strong, Sarah, "The Living World of the *Ainu Shin'yôshû*," In *Ainu Spirits Singing*, pages 45-80; also Selections from *Ainu Shin'yôshû*

GS: Maruyama. (2013). "Disregard for the Ainu Culture and the Environment," *AlterNative* v. 9, issue 1: 74-86.

April 27: Guest Lecture: Ecological Restoration among Ainu in Nibutani and Chumash in California, Ayumi Nakamura (Santa Ynez Chumash Environmental Office)

WEEK 6: Disaster & Resilience

May 2: GS: Duus, Peter, "Dealing with Disaster," In *Natural Disaster and Nuclear Crisis in Japan*, pages 175-187

JNE 14: Postcrisis Japanese Nuclear Policy: From Topdown Directives to Bottom-up Activism Daniel P. Aldrich, pages 280-292

TALK May 3: Dan Aldrich on "Post-Fukushima Resilience," SSMS 2135

EXTRA CREDIT FOR ALL WHO ATTEND

May 4: JNE 13: "An Envirotechnical Disaster: Negotiating Nature, Technology, and Politics at Fukushima," Sara B. Pritchard, pages 255- 279

GS: Jones, Christopher et al. "Lessons from Fukushima." *Issues in Science and Technology*: Spring 2012.

Screening on May 4: *Selections from "Japan and Nuclear Power: Four years later"* Directed by Kawaii Hiroyuki (lead lawyer for nearly every court case against nuclear plants in Japan in last three decades)

WEEK 7: Media, Society, and Science after Fukushima

May 9: GS: MacNeill, David. "Them versus Us: Japanese and International Reporting of the Fukushima Nuclear Crisis," in *Japan Copes with Calamity*, Ed. by Gill, Steger & Slater, 127-150.

GS: Hirano, Katsuya and Hirotaka, Kasai, "The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster is a Serious Crime": Interview with Koide Hiroaki," In *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, March 15, 2016 (<http://apjjf.org/2016/06/Hirano.html>).

May 11: GS: Morioka, Rika. "Mother Courage: Women as Activists between a Passive Populace and a Paralyzed Government," in *Japan Copes with Calamity*, Ed. by Gill, Steger & Slater, 177-200.

Screening on May 11: "Little Voices from Fukushima" Dir. Kamanaka Hitomi. Zakka Films.

WEEK 8: Whaling & Japan's Pelagic Empire

May 16: JNE Ch. 2: From Meat to Machine Oil: The Nineteenth-Century Development of Whaling in Wakayama Jakobina Arch, pages 39-55.

JNE Ch. 3: "Fisheries Build Up the Nation: Maritime Environmental Encounters between Japan and China," Micah Muscolino, pages 56-72.

JNE Ch. 1: "The Pelagic Empire: Reconsidering Japanese Expansion," William M. Tsutsui, pages 21-38

MAY 18: IN-CLASS SCREENING*: "Whale Hunters" BBC Documentary

*Professor Iewallen will be presenting at a conference on May 18, but our TA, Kai Wasson, will screen the film and conduct our GS forum, so please plan to attend class.

WEEK 9: Nuclear Exports & Resource Colonialism

May 23: EJS: "Japan as an Organic Empire: Commercial Fertilizers, Nitrogen Supply, and Japan's Core-Peripheral Relationship," Toshihiro Higuchi

EJS: "When the Green Archipelago Encountered Formosa : The Making of Modern Forestry in Taiwan under Japan's Colonial Rule" (1895/1945)," Kuang-chi Hun

May 25: GS: Sikina, Maia, "Beyond Japan in the Post-Fukushima World Order: Japan's Gamble on the Asian Nuclear Renaissance" (<http://www.asiaprogressive.com/fukushima-india-japan-nuke-deal/>)

GS: Fukunaga, Masaaki, "Why Japan must not sell nuclear technology to India" (<http://www.asiaprogressive.com/why-japan-must-not-sell-nuclear-technology-to-india/>)

WEEK10: Wrap-up

FINAL QUIZ on JUNE 1

MONDAY, MAY 30: FINAL PROJECTS DUE TO GAUCHOSPACE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1: FINAL QUIZ

