

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

GENDER, CULTURE AND MODERNITY IN INTERWAR JAPAN

Subtitle	Gender, Culture and Modernity in Interwar Japan
Lecturer(s)	NOTTER, DAVID M.
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2025 Fall
Day/Period	Tue.5
Campus	Mita
Classroom	463
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	03538
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
K-Number	CIN-CO-00153-212-08

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

While the history of Japan as a modern nation begins in the Meiji period, much of what we recognize as typical of 'modern life' as we know it begins in the Taisho period, or more generally in the 'interwar' period which extends into the early years of the Showa era. In this class we will examine in detail several aspects of this new 'modern life' with particular attention given to the new social roles, new gender roles, new lifestyles, and new forms of culture that emerged among the new middle class. This class will be conducted as a lecture course.

Active Learning Methods [Description](#)

Not applicable

Preparatory Study

Some reading will be assigned.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Introduction to the course and general overview

Lesson 2

The emergence of the 'modern family' among the new middle class

Lesson 3

The emergence and crystallization of the 'love marriage' ideal and new forms of courtship

Lesson 4

New ideals of and debates over womanhood as voiced by influential female intellectuals such as Yosano Akiko

Lesson 5

New social roles for women/new occupations for women

Lesson 6

The 'modern girl' as 'moga' and new categories of female deviance

Lesson 7

New media for women part one: Shufu no Tomo (Housewife's Friend)

Lesson 8

New media for women part two: Seito

Lesson 9

The emergence of the 'salary-man'

Lesson 10

The ideology of careerism or 'risshin shusse'

Lesson 11

The emergence of the modern housewife

Lesson 12

New notions of motherhood and child-rearing

Lesson 13

The Taisho-era transformation in school culture at the elite higher school for boys

Lesson 14

The expansion of education for women and the culture of cultivation at the new higher schools for women

Other

Additional Instruction

Method of Evaluation

Grades will be based on in-class open-note quizzes on the content of the lectures (80%) and a written assignment (20%)

Textbooks

A textbook will not be assigned, but some reading will be required.

Lecturer's Comments to Students

In this course the use of generative AI will not be allowed on assignments which are to be graded.

