AC190, Section 29
From Perry to Pokemon: Japan in the United States, the United States in Japan
Spring 2003

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 3-5 and by appointment

Description
This course traces the cultural interactions between Japan and the United States beginning with Matthew Perry’s 1854 voyage. Topics include Japanese scrolls depicting Perry’s arrival; paintings, architecture and musical forms that traveled between the two countries; the U.S. occupation of Japan after World War II; the popularity of anime and other Japanese films in the U.S.; and the importance of American popular culture in post-war Japan.

Books available for purchase at Brown Bookstore

- Warren I. Cohen, *The Asian American Century*
- Monica Soane, *Nisei Daughter*
- John Dower, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*
- E. Taylor Atkins, *Blue Nippon: Authenticating Jazz in Japan*
- Aviad E. Raz, *Riding the Black Ship: Japan and Tokyo Disneyland*
- Karen Kelsky, *Women on the Verge: Japanese Women, Western Dreams*

Or

- Cathy Davidson, *36 Views of Mount Fuji*

Optional

- Jeff Yang, Dina Gan, Terry Hong, *Eastern Standard Time: A Guide to Asian Influence on American Culture from Astro Boy to Zen Buddhism*

Reading Packet, Available at Allegra Copy, corner Waterman and Thayer
*starred readings are in the packet*
Weekly Readings

January 27: Intro (Readings Handed out in Class)

Bruce Westbrook, “‘The First Movie’ may be invincible,” Houston Chronicle, 10 November 1999, 1.

February 3: Overview

February 10: Perry Comes to Japan (MEET AT THE JOHN HAY LIBRARY)


February 24: Imperialism
Selections from:


March 3: Art

March 10: Japanese-Americans/ Discuss final paper topics
March 17: WWII/Occupation

March 31: Music

April 7: Discussion of Final papers/ presentation of paper prospectus/ Disney

April 14: American Women want to be Japanese and vice versa
    OR
    Cathy Davidson, 36 Views of Mount Fuji (New York: Plume Book, 1993).

April 21: Anime

Requirements:

Short paper, to be used on web site about Perry Scroll, 300-500 words – due Friday, February 28th; comment on each other’s papers, due Friday, March 7; rewritten version due Friday, March 14, 20%

Lead class; prepare discussion questions; arrange field trip; and/or locate interesting materials; actively engage in weekly seminar, 10%

Research Paper Proposal, 3-5 pages, outlining topic, evidence, method, and potential thesis, due Monday, April 7, 10%

Research Paper, due Monday, May 12, 50%