

Asian 222: Great Books of Japan: Seeds of Conflict

This course is designed to provide students with a deeper understanding of the origins and development of Japan's conflicted place in Asia. Japan's role in Asia today—from its claims to disputed territories to its acknowledgment of wartime atrocities—is a sensitive subject for many. However, it is important to realize that this is in part due to a complicated history that dates back to even before there was a Japan as such. For understanding how such tensions and conflicts emerged and developed over time, one of the best resources we have is literature, in particular works that portray Japan's relations to other countries. Such writings are not simple reportage—they reveal how people understood (or wanted to understand) Japan's relation to its neighbors, especially China. To explore these changing dynamics, we will draw on a range of writings and visual media that depict Japan's place in a larger world. Using materials from the 8th century through the present, we will work towards a better understanding of forces and ideas that continue to influence relations between Japan and her neighbors today.

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Mon/Wed
2:30—4:00 PM

