History Seminar for fall of 2010: Gender and Culture in Modern Japan

This seminar focuses on the shifting meaning, both in politics and culture, of femininity and manliness in modern Japan between 1800 and 1950. Readings will include secondary historical sources like Gail Bernstein’s *Recreating Japanese Women* and primary literary texts like Natsume Soseki’s *Kokoro* and Tanizaki Junichiro’s *Some Prefer Nettles*. All students will be asked to write a twenty-five page interpretative essay based upon the common literary and historical readings for the course. Some background in Japanese history or culture will be helpful but not necessary.