Japan’s Rise to World Power for the Spring 2018

The course will provide a political and cultural survey of modern Japan from 1800 through World War II. Special consideration will be given to the Meiji Restoration in the nineteenth century, the “liberal” party movement in the 1920s, and the rise of militarism after 1930. The readings will include two novels by Natsume Soseki and Tanizaki Junichiro along with Kenneth Pyle’s The Making of Modern Japan. We will divide our attention equally between the cultural and the political history of modern Japan. All students, regardless of whether or not you have had previous classes in Japanese studies, are welcome to enroll in this course.