

ANS302J Introduction To Japan #31780

Date & Time: MWF 12 – 12:50
 Location: WAG214

Instructor: Maeri Megumi
 Office: BEL 212 HB
 Office Hours: M 10-11:30 & W 1:30-3:00 or by appointment
 E-mail: mmegumi@utexas.edu

TA: Hillary Langberg
 Office Hours: MW 3:30-4:30 held at Cafe Medici [2222B Guadalupe at W 22nd St, next to the CVS] or by appointment
 E-mail: hillarylangberg@gmail.com

This course offers a broad-based introduction to Japanese history, society and culture, beginning with prehistoric times and continuing to present. We will follow a chronological format, focusing on understanding how Japanese who lived in different historical periods created particular political, social and cultural systems to realize their beliefs and values. In addition to the main textbook, course materials will include literature, historical documents, art, and film. The secondary goal of this course is to provide an introductory foundation for students to go onto more specialized, upper-division courses in fields such as Japanese anthropology, history, economics, literature, political science, religion, and sociology.

COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The books listed below are available at the Co-op Bookstore and may also be available on-line at Amazon, Powell's, etc. Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard or available online.

A History of Japan: Revised Edition
 by R.H.P. Mason & J.G. Caiger. Tuttle Publishing. 1997.

Chūshingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers A Puppet Play (Takeda Izumo et al. 1748)
 Trans. Donald Keen. Columbia University Press. 1971.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance, In-class Quizzes/group work – 25%
 Attendance is mandatory and if you are absent for more than two class meetings, it will greatly affect your grade. There will be sporadic and frequent pop quizzes throughout the semester on the required readings, lectures, as well as the films/clips shown in class. The lowest two quiz scores will be automatically dropped.

Midterm Exams – 45% (22.5% each)
 Two midterm exams will be given and will consist of a mixture of short answer and short essay questions from lectures, readings, films and videos and any other assigned course materials.

Final Exam – 30%
 December 17th (Tue) 9 a.m. – noon.
 No make-ups allowed. If you do not show, you will receive a “0” for the test.

GRADING POLICY

Grades are assigned as follows:

93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; 80-82.9 = B-; 77-79.9 = C+; 73-76.9 = C; 70-72.9 = C-; 67-69.9 = D+; 63-66.9 = D; 60-62.9 = D-; below 60 = F.

COURSE POLICIES

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and integrity. Behaviors such as plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, copying of another student's work, or cheating on examinations in any form will be viewed as an offense against the academic community and will be dealt with accordingly. If you are uncertain about what constitutes academic integrity, visit the web site of Student Judicial Services. In the event that a student is found engaging in behavior that violates university policies on academic integrity, the student will receive the grade of F for the course and will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be taken. There will be no exceptions. For more information, see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.

E-Mail & Blackboard Communications:

Some of our readings are available on blackboard, and we will use e-mail and Blackboard for course-related announcements and communications. As per the University Electronic Notification Policy (see <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>), it is your responsibility to update your email address and to check your e-mail and blackboard regularly. Blackboard is available at <http://courses.utexas.edu>. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 during business hours on weekdays.

Standards and Expectations:

Carefully read the assigned texts by the date indicated on the schedule. Common courtesy is expected during class time. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave. **No laptop, notebook tablet, etc. are allowed for use in class.** Please either turn-off your cell phone or keep it on silent mode; do not read or send text messages or read newspapers or other materials during class.

Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities:

Students who require special accommodations may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6529 voice or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information, see: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>

Religious Holidays:

If you will need to miss class, tests, or other assignments due to the observance of a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the work you have missed provided you notify me at least one week prior to the absence.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

***NOTE: I reserve the right to change the following schedule or to revise this syllabus during the course.

WEEK 1 Introduction

Aug 28 Course Introduction

Aug 30 Geography; Archaic Japan

WEEK 2 Early Japanese Worldviews

Readings:

A History of Japan, 17 – 34

“The Earliest Records of Japan,” “Early Shinto” from deBary, Sources of Japanese Tradition Vol.1 (Hereafter SJT1)

Sept 2 No class (HOLIDAY)

Sept 4 Yamato Society

Sept 6 Japanese Religious Worldview and Shinto

WEEK 3: The Early Japanese State

Readings:

A History of Japan, 35-63

“Prince Shōtoku and His Constitution” and “State Sponsorship and Control of Buddhism” SJT1

Sept 9 Introduction of Buddhism: Guest Lecture by Hillary Langberg

Sept 11 Nara State and Society

Sept 13 Nara cont'd

WEEK 4 Classical Society and Culture

Readings:

A History of Japan, 64-117

"Yūgao" from *The Tale of Genji*, selections from Sei Shōnagon's *The Pillow Book*

Sept 16 Heian Aesthetics, Religion

Sept 18 Heian State and Society

Sept 20 From Heian to Kamakura: Rise of the Warrior

WEEK 5 The Rise of the Warrior

Readings:

A History of Japan, 121-143

“The Way of the Warrior” from SJT1

Sept 23 Movie: Gate of Hell

Sept 25 Finish watching Gate of Hell

Sept 27 The Kamakura Bakufu

WEEK 6 Medieval Culture and Aesthetics

Readings:

A History of Japan, 144-170

"The Way of Tea" from SJT1

"Kitabatake Chikafusa: Chronicle of the Direct Descent of Gods and Sovereigns (Jinnō Shōtokuki)" from SJT1 (in Chapter 15 – including the sections "The Names of Japan" "Japan's Position Geographically" "Japan's Position Chronologically" and "The Imperial Regalia")

Sept 30 State and Society in Medieval Japan

Oct 2 Religious Reformation, Zen and Medieval Culture

Oct 4 Midterm 1 (beginning to Medieval Japan)

WEEK 7 Civil War and Re-unification

Readings:

A History of Japan, 171-189

"The Evangelic Furnace" SJT2

Oct 7 Warring States and the Emergence of the Great Unifiers

Oct 9 Great Unifiers cont'd

Oct 11 Japan's First Encounter with the West

WEEK 8 The Tokugawa Shogunate and Edo Society

Readings:

A History of Japan, 190-253

Chūshingura pp27-76 (Act 1 – 4)

Oct 14 The Tokugawa Shogunate

Oct 16 The Floating World in Edo Culture: Guest Lecture by Hillary Langberg

Oct 18 Religion and Intellectual Life in Tokugawa Society

WEEK 9 The Decline of Tokugawa

Readings:

Finish Chūshingura (pp77-180) & Chūshingura Introduction pp 1-26

"Oshio Heihachiro" and "Hirata Atsutane" from SJT2

Oct 21 Tokugawa Society Cont'd (discussion on Chūshingura)

Oct 23 Decline of Tokugawa Society

Oct 25 Opening of Japan to the West

WEEK 10 The Meiji Restoration and Revolution

Readings:

A History of Japan, 255-303

Natsume Soseki "Civilization of Modern Day Japan"

Oct. 28 Meiji Restoration: Civilization and Enlightenment

Oct. 30 Rapid Modernization of Japan

Nov 1 Midterm Exam 2

WEEK 11 Taisho Liberalism and Nationalism

Readings:

A History of Japan, 304-341

Nov 4 Taisho Liberalism

Nov 6 Imperialism & Colonialism

Nov 8 Rising Nationalism and War with China

WEEK 12 Imperial Japan, War and Defeat

Readings:

A History of Japan, 342-360

Excerpts from Japan at War: An Oral History by Haruko & Ted Cooke

Nov 11 The Pacific War

Nov 13 Defeat

Nov 15 The U.S. Occupation of Japan

WEEK 13 Postwar Reconstruction

Readings:

Oe Kenzaburô, "Sheep" and "Growing Up during the Occupation"
Excerpts from Embracing Defeat by John Dower pp. 525-546

Nov 18 Postwar Politics and Economics

Nov 20 Self-study day

Nov 22 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

WEEK 14 The New Japan?

Readings:

Excerpts from A Brief History of Japanese Civilization pp. 268- 292

Nov 25 Economic Growth, Political Stability

Nov 27 Movie TBD

Nov 29 Movie Cont'd

WEEK 15 Contemporary Japan

Readings:

"Into the Unknown" from The Economist, 2010 Nov 18.

William M. Tsutsui, "Nerd Nation: Otaku and Youth Subculture in Contemporary Japan"
Education about Asia, Winter 2008.

Dec 2 Japanese family, problems of aging society

Dec 4 Globalization, pop culture

Dec 6 Wrap up

Final Exam:

December 17th (Tue) 9 a.m. – noon.

No make-ups. If you do not show, you will receive a "0" for the test.