Japanese History

(Subject to Revision)
Fall 2019
Instructor: Prof. TSU
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Course Description

This course provides an overview of Japanese history from pre-historical times to the end of the Pacific War. It emphasizes the recognition of basic facts, historical milestones, broad patterns, and long-term trends in Japanese politics, society, and economy. Students are encouraged to consider how history has shaped Japanese society through the centuries and laid the foundation for contemporary Japan. After taking this course, students will be able to describe the characteristics of Japanese society in different historical periods and to explain long-term change.

Assessment

- 5 interpretive essays (700 words X 2, 600 words, 500 words X 2): 25% x 2 = 50%, 20% x 1, 15% x 2 (Further instructions to be given in class.)

The Konan University Year-in-Japan program has adopted a uniform attendance policy for the Japan Studies courses. You are allowed only two unexcused absences during the semester without penalty. A third unexcused absence will reduce your grade in the course by 10 points (equivalent to one letter grade in the American system). A fourth unexcused absence will reduce your grade by another 10 points. More than four unexcused absences will result automatically in a failing grade for the course. Legitimate excuses for absence are normally limited to illnesses or accidents that require medical attention. Please consult with the Resident Director **in advance** if you believe that you have some other legitimate reason for absence. Students must document all legitimate excuses.

Readings

- 1. Japan, History. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. (free access online) https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan/History
- 2. Gordon, Andrew. *Postwar Japan as History*. California U.P. (selected chapters)
- 3. Jansen, Marius. *The Making of Modern Japan*. Harvard U.P. (selected chapters)
- 4. Friday, Karl F. ed. 2012. *Japan Emerging: Premodern Japan to 1850*. Westview Press. (selected chapters)

1. 9/12 Thu	Explanation of Syllabus & Introductory Lecture
Section 1	
2. 9/17	Occupation & High-Growth 1 • Read: Japan Since 1945: The Early Postwar Decades. In *Japan:*

Tue	*Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, 54-62.
3. 9/19 Thu	Occupation & High-Growth 2 • Read: Hein, L., Growth Versus Success. In *Postwar Japan as History*, 99-122.
4. 9/24 Tue	Occupation & High-Growth 3 • Read: Allison, G., The Structure and Transformation of Conservative Rule. In *Postwar Japan as History*, 123-144.
5. 9/26 Thu	Occupation & High-Growth 4 • Read: Garon, S. & Mochizuki M., Negotiating Social Contracts. In *Postwar Japan as History*, 145-166.
Section 2	
6. 10/1 Tue	Imperial Japan 1 • Read: Japan from 1850 to 1945. In *Japan: Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, 42-54.
7. 10/3 Thu	Imperial Japan 2 • Read: Jansen, M., Building the Meiji State. In *The Making of Modern Japan*, 371-413. • Essay #1 due in class: 700-word interpretive essay. Prompt: "A country may lose at war but win in peace." Discuss Japan's postwar recovery in light of the previous quote using readings in section 1.
8. 10/8 Tue	Imperial Japan 3 • Read: same as above
9. 10/10 Thu	Imperial Japan 4 • Read: Jansen, M., Imperial Japan. In *The Making of Modern Japan*, 414-455.
10. 10/15 Tue	Imperial Japan 5 • Read: same as above.
11. 10/17 Thu	Imperial Japan 6 • Read: Jansen, M., Japan between the Wars. In *The Making of Modern Japan*, 494-536.
12. 10/24 Thu	Imperial Japan 7 • Read: same as above
Oct 26 Sat	Fieldtrip #1: Okamoto Yahata Shrine – Kazefukiiwa – Hokura Shrine Hiking.
13. 10/29 Tue	No class.
Section 3	
14. 10/31 Thu	Early Modern Japan 1 • Read: Early Modern Japan. In *Japan: Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, 27-42. • Read: Gainty, D., The New Warriors. In *Japan Emerging*, 344-355. • Essay #2 due in class (700 words): How "democratic" was Japan between 1870 and 1930? Discuss with reference to readings in

	section 2.
15. 11/5 Tue	Early Modern Japan 2 • Read: Howell, D., Urbanization, Trade, and Merchants. In *Japan Emerging*, 356-365. • Read: Chance, F., *Ukiyo asobi*. In *Japan Emerging*, 366-376.
16. 11/7 Thu	Early Modern Japan 3 • Read: Ambros, B., Religion in Early Modern Japan. In *Japan Emerging*, 378-390. • Read: Walthall, A. Peace Dividend. In *Japan Emerging*, 391-401.
17. 11/12 Tue	Early Modern Japan 4 • Read: Rubinger, R., Thought, Education, and Popular Literacies in Early Modern Japan. In *Japan Emerging*, 413-424.
Section 4	
18. 11/14 Thu	Medieval Japan 1 • Read: Medieval Japan. In *Japan: Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, pp.16-27. • Goble, A., The Kamakura Shogunate and the Beginnings of Warrior Power. In *Japan Emerging*, 189-199.
19. 11/19 Tue	Medieval Japan 2 • Segal, E., Kamakura and the Challenges of Governance. In *Japan Emerging*, 203-212. • Goble, A., Go-Daigō, Takauji, and the Muromachi Shogunate. In *Japan Emerging*, 213-223. • Essay #3 due in class (600 words). Prompt: The Edo period is celebrated for its cultural developments. Provide an overview of Edo culture based on the readings in section 3.
20. 11/21 Thu	Medieval Japan 3 • Eason, D., Warriors, Warlords, and Domains. In *Japan Emerging*, 233-243. • Keirstead, T., The Rise of the Peasantry. In *Japan Emerging*, 278-289.
Section 5	
21. 11/26 Tue	Ancient Japan 1 • Read: Ancient Japan to 1185. In *Japan: Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, pp.1-16.
22. 11/28 Thu	Ancient Japan 2 • Read: Fuqua, D., Centralization and State Formation in Sixth- and Seventh-Century Japan. In Japan Emerging, 98-110. • Read: Bender, N., Emperor, Aristocracy, and the Ritsuryō State. In *Japan Emerging*, 111-121.
23. 12/3 Tue	Ancient Japan 3 • Read: Adolphson, M., Oligarchy, Shared Rulership, and Power Blocs. In *Japan Emerging*, 122-134. • Read: Verschuer, C., The Provinces and the Public Economy. In *Japan Emerging*, 157-166.
24. 12/5 Thu	Ancient Japan 4 • Read: Segal, E., The Shōen System. In *Japan Emerging*, 167-177.

	• Read: Friday, K., The Dawn of the Samurai. In *Japan Emerging*, 178-189. • Essay #4 due in class (500 words). Prompt: Discuss the nature and limits of the shogunate in the Kamakura & Muromachi periods based on readings in section 4.
Dec 7 Sat	Fieldtrip #2. Kiyoshi Kōjin Temple.
25. 12/10 Tue	No class. • Essay #5 (500 words) due Dec 20. Submit by email attachment. Prompt: Provide a conceptual, schematic account of the rise and decline of imperial authority between the 6th to 10th centuries drawing on the readings in section 5.