

Fall 2010
MWF 9:00-9:50 am

History 159/ EAS 131
Severance 108

Japan from Earliest Times to 1868

Professor Raja Adal

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This course introduces you to the history of Japan, from the time when a land bridge connected the Japanese isles to the Asian mainland to the dawn of the modern era. Topics will include the introduction of Buddhism, writing, and tea from Asia, the establishment of the Medieval culture described in *The Tale of Genji*, the rise of warrior rule, and the lives of the women, samurai, peasants, city dwellers, and outcasts who lived, worked, played, and sometimes revolted in Medieval and Early Modern Japan. It will draw extensively on translated primary sources and on visual sources from Oberlin's collection and online. Enrollment Limit: 45.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Required texts have been ordered in paperback at the Oberlin Bookstore (basement) as well as placed on reserve at Mudd Library.

1. Mason and Caiger. *A History of Japan*. Rutland: Tuttle, revised edition, 1997.
2. Katsu Kokichi. *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*. Translated by Teruko Craig. Phoenix: University of Arizona Press, 1988.
3. *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, Volume 1. *From Earliest Times to 1600*. Eds., De Bary, Keene, Tanabe & Varley. Columbia University press, second edition. 2001 (*SJT*).
4. Shiba Gorō, *Remembering Aizu: The Testament of Shiba Gorō*. Translated by Teruko Craig. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1999.

RECOMMENDED TEXT

Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present*. Oxford: Oxford University, 2009.

ALL OTHER READINGS ARE AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD.

ASSESSMENT

The course grade will be based on the following:

- Mid-term (hour) exam: 20%
- Papers (3): 10% each
- Final exam: 30%
- Map quizzes (2): 5%
- Attendance/Participation: 15%

EXAMS

The Midterm Examination, covering the lectures and all assigned readings to date will be given in class on Friday October 8. The Final Examination is scheduled for Saturday December 18 from 2-4pm.

ESSAYS

Students will write three 3-4 page essays drawing on visual and primary sources, due in class on Monday September 27, Monday November 8, and Monday December 6. The papers will draw on textual primary sources that we will read every week in class and on material and visual culture from Oberlin's collections and online. During week 9, we will visit the temporary print study room of Oberlin's Allen Memorial Art Museum to examine original images from Early Modern Japan. During that same visit, we will also view a Japanese map from the early nineteenth century and books from Early Modern Japan in Special Collections.

Papers are due on (or before) the due date noted in the syllabus. Only one extension will be granted per semester and must be requested during office hours at least 2 days before the due date of the paper. Late assignments will be reduced by one grade step per day. A "B" paper due on Friday November 5 but turned in on Saturday November 6, for example, will get a "B-." If paper turned in on Monday November 8 it will earn a "C," etc.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- Lectures are an integral part of the course, and attendance is mandatory.
- Students are expected to complete all readings and be prepared to discuss them in class.
- Each week, students will be required to post one question concerning the readings on the online discussion board in Blackboard by Thursday, 10 pm.

FILM SCREENINGS

Two films will be shown during the course of the semester in King 337. The first, "*Ran*" by Director Kurosawa Akira will be screened on Tuesday October 12 at 7pm. The second film, "*Twilight Samurai*" (*Tasogare Seibei*) by Director Yamada Yōji will be screened on Tuesday November 30 at 7pm. Films will be discussed during lecture in conjunction with the readings for the week.

HONOR CODE

All students are expected to adhere to the Oberlin Honor Code on all written assignments.

WRITING ASSISTANCE

Students are encouraged to visit the Writing Center in Mudd Library where tutors from the Writing Associates Program can provide strategies for improving writing skills.

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 1:00-2:30 and Wednesdays 10:00-11:30.

Students are encouraged to come see the instructor with questions about any aspect of the course.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

I. PRE-MODERN JAPAN

Week 1: Origins

Sep. 8 (W) Introduction: Why study Japanese history?

Sept. 10 (F) Early Peoples, Myths, and Technologies

Secondary Sources

Mason & Caiger, *A History of Japan*, 19-24.

Hall, John W., *Japan from Prehistory to Modern Times*, 1-23 (Blackboard).

Primary sources

“History of the Kingdom of Wei,” 6-8 (*SJT*).

“The Earliest Japanese Chronicles,” 13-16 (*SJT*).

“Legends concerning Shintō Deities,” 19-23 (*SJT*).

“Descent of the Divine Grandson with the Three Imperial Regalia,” 27-28 (*SJT*).

Week 2: The Early Japanese State

Sept. 13* (M) The Rise of the Yamato Kings and Conquest of the Japanese Isles

Sept. 15 (W) Buddhism

Sept. 17 (M) The Writing System

**On Monday Sept. 13 there will be a map quiz at the beginning of class.*

Secondary Sources

Mason & Caiger, 25-63.

H. Mack Horton. “Japanese Spirit and Chinese Learning: Scribes and Storytellers in Pre-modern Japan” (Blackboard).

Primary sources

“The Reign of Suiko and Rule of Shōtoku,” pp 46-54 (*SJT*).

“The Reform Era,” “Inauguration of the Great Reform Era,” 75-84 (*SJT*).

“Buddhism and the State in Nara Japan,” 114-120 (*SJT*).

Week 3: The Classical Age

Sept. 20 (M) Courtier Rulership in the Heian Period (794-1185)

Sept. 22 (W) Heian Refinements and Religions

Sept. 24 (F) *The Tale of Genji* and Heian Literature

Secondary Source

Mason & Caiger, 64-117.

Primary sources

“Saichō: Vow of the Uninterrupted Study of the Lotus Sutra,” 140 (*SJT*).

“Saichō: Explaining the Precepts,” 141-142 (*SJT*).

“Regulations for Students of the Mountain School in Six Articles I,” 145-146 (*SJT*).

“Murasaki Shikibu: On the Art of Fiction,” 201-203 (*SJT*).

Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* [trans. Edward Seidensticker, 1976]: “The Paulownia Court,” 1-17 (Blackboard).

Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* [trans. Helen Craig McCullough, 1994]: “Yūgao,” 59-83 (Blackboard).

Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* [trans. Royall Tyler, 2001]: “Young Murasaki,” 83-109 (Blackboard).

Week 4: The Rise of the Warrior Class

Sept. 27* (M) The Rise of the Warrior Class

Sept. 29 (W) Warrior Rulership and Kamakura Culture

Oct. 1 (F) Civil War

**First paper due in class on Monday September 27.*

Secondary Source

Mason & Caiger, 121-143.

Primary sources

Tales of Times Now Past, 93-101; 173-77; 184-186 (Blackboard).

Noh Play: “Tomoe,” in *Heroic with Grace: Legendary Women of Japan*, 151-161 (Blackboard).

“The Tale of Heiji;” “Tale of the Heike,” 274-277 (*SJT*).

“The Jōei Code,” 415-417 (*SJT*).

“The Kenmu Code,” 418-420 (*SJT*).

Week 5: Medieval Cultures

Oct. 4 (M) The Culture of War and the Southern Barbarians

Oct. 6 (W) The Visual Arts

Oct. 8 (F) In-Class Midterm

Secondary Source

Mason & Caiger, 144-170.

Primary sources

“Medieval Uses of the Past,” 250-257 (*SJT*).

“The Yūki House Code,” 423-425 (*SJT*).

“Genshin: The Essentials of Salvation;” 217-222 (*SJT*).

“Eisai: Propagation of Zen for the Protection of the State,” 311-317 (*SJT*).

“Dōgen: How to Practice Buddhism,” 319-328 (*SJT*).

“Keisei: A Companion in Solitude,” 404-406 (*SJT*).

“Mujū Ichien: Mirror for Women,” 406-412 (*SJT*).

Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art*, 147-148; 174-201; 211-212 (*SJT*).

Shimizu, Yoshiaki. “Japan in American Museums: But which Japan?” *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 83, No. 1 (Mar., 2001), 123-134 (Blackboard).

Week 6: From War to Unification

Oct. 11* (M) The Period of Warring States

Oct. 13 (W) The Unifiers

Oct. 15 (F) Unification

**Reminder: Screening of "Ran" by Kurosawa Akira in King 337 at 7pm on Tuesday, Oct. 12.*

Secondary Source

Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan*, 1-19 (Blackboard).

Primary sources

"Oda Nobunaga: The Humiliation of the Shogun;" "The Assault on Mt. Hiei and the Blessings of Nobunaga," 441-447 (*SJT*).

"Toyotomi Hideyoshi: Domestic Policies;" "The Korean War: Letter to the King of Korea," 458-467 (*SJT*).

II. EARLY MODERN JAPAN

Week 7: The Tokugawa Polity: The Warriors

Oct. 18* (M) Shoguns and Warriors

Oct. 20 (W) Case Study: Katsu Kokichi

Oct. 22 (F) Case Study: The Akō Vendetta

**On Wednesday Oct. 18 there will be a map quiz at the beginning of class.*

Secondary Sources

Ikegami Eiko. "The Vendetta of the Forty-Seven Samurai." In *The Taming of the Samurai: Honorific Individualism and the Making of Modern Japan*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995, 223-240 (Blackboard).

Primary sources

Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*, preface, 1-42.

"Code for the Warrior Households," 12-14 (Blackboard).

"Code for the Imperial Court and Court Nobility," 14-18 (Blackboard).

"Anecdotes concerning Yamazaki Ansai," 82-83 (Blackboard).

"Manifesto of the Retainers of Asano Takumi." In *Akō Gishi Jiten*. Trans. Federico Marcon. Kobe: Akō Gishi Jiten Kankōkai, 1972 (Blackboard).

"The Way of the Warrior II," (Akō Vendetta) 353-364 (Blackboard).

Fall Recess

Week 8: The Tokugawa Polity and its Discontents

Nov. 1 (F) Villagers, City Dwellers, and Outcasts

Nov. 3 (M) Women

Nov. 5 (W) Revolt!

**Students will be assigned to one of two groups. On the day of your visit, please convene at 9:00 am at Special Collections.*

Secondary Sources

Gordon, 20-33 (Blackboard).

Walthall, Anne. "The Life Cycle of Farm Women in Tokugawa Japan," in Gail Lee Bernstein, *Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945*, 42-70 (Blackboard).

Vlastos, Stephen. "Introduction," "New Causes of Conflict," *Peasant Protests and Uprisings in Tokugawa Japan*, 1-20; 73-91 (Blackboard).

Primary sources

"The Greater Learning for Women," [trans. of *Onna daigaku*, ca. 1672], in Basil Hall Chamberlain, *Things Japanese* (1891 edition): 454-63 (Blackboard).

Yamakawa Kikue, *Women of the Mito Domain: Recollections of Samurai Family Life*, 86-115 (Blackboard).

Week 9: The Tokugawa Polity in Mythology and Art

Nov. 8 (M) "A Tale of a Dream from the Fox Woman Plain"

Nov. 10 (W) Section 1: Visit to Special Collections and Museum Temporary Print Study Room*

Nov. 12 (F) Section 2: Visit to Special Collections and Museum Temporary Print Study Room*

Primary source

"A Tale of a Dream from the Fox Woman Plain." [Trans. Anne Walthall] in *Peasant Uprisings in Japan*, 176-192 (Blackboard).

Week 10: A Closed Country? Foreign Relations in Tokugawa Japan

Nov. 15* (M) "*Sakoku*"

Nov. 17 (W) The Dutch on Dejima

Nov. 19 (F) Case Study: Engelbert Kaempfer (1651-1716)

**Second paper due in class on Monday November 8.*

Secondary Sources

Gordon, 34-45 (Blackboard).

Toby, Ronald. *State and Diplomacy in Early Modern Japan*, 1-22 (Blackboard).

Keene, Donald. *The Japanese Discovery of Europe, 1720-1830*, 1-15 (Blackboard).

Primary sources

"Aizawa Seishisai: Revere the Emperor, Repel the Barbarian;" "*New Theses*" 520-529 (Blackboard).

"Sakuma Shōzan: Eastern Ethics and Western Science," 530-540 (Blackboard).

Bodart-Bailey, Beatrice. *Kaempfer's Japan: Tokugawa Culture Observed*, 179-200 (Blackboard).

Week 11: Black Ships and Red Beards

Nov. 22 (M) 1850s Troubles

Nov. 24 (W) The Black Ships

Secondary Sources

Gordon, 46-59 (Blackboard).

Bolitho, Harold. "The Tempō Crisis," in Marius Jansen, ed. *The Emergence of Meiji Japan*, 1-52 (Blackboard).

Thanksgiving Recess

Week 12: Narrating the Restoration

Nov. 29 (M) The Black Ships in Multiple Perspectives

Dec. 1 (W) How to Narrate the Restoration

Dec. 3 (F) The Restoration and Modern Japan

*Reminder: Screening of "Twilight Samurai" in King 337 at 7pm on Tuesday Nov. 30.

Secondary Source

Shiba Gorō, *Remembering Aizu*. Entire.

John Dower. "Black Ships and Samurai: Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan (1853-1854)" (http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/black_ships_and_samurai/pdf/bss_essay.pdf).

Primary sources

"Sakamoto Ryōma: Eight-Point Proposal," 563-564 (Blackboard).

"Letter from Saigo Takamori and Okubo Toshimichi on the Imperial Restoration," pp. 564-565 (Blackboard).

Explore http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/black_ships_and_samurai/bss_visnav01.html.

Week 13: Assessing the Tokugawa Period

Dec. 6* (M) Abandoning the Old, Building the New

Dec. 8 (W) From Edo to Tokyo

Dec. 10 (F) Japan's Premodern and Early Modern Period in Global Perspective

*Third paper due in class on Monday December 6.

Secondary Source

Gordon, preface and introduction (Blackboard).

Kären Wigen. "Mapping Early Modernity: Geographical Meditation on a Comparative Concept." *Early Modern Japan* 5(2) (December 1995): 1-13.

Primary sources

"The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi," 560-562 (Blackboard).

Week 14: Assessing the Tokugawa Period

Dec. 13 (M) Japan's Premodern and Early Modern Period in Contemporary Perspective

Secondary Source

Gluck, Carol. "The Invention of Edo," *Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions of Modern Japan*. Edited by Stephen Vlastos, 262-284 (Blackboard).

FINAL EXAMINATION: DEC. 18 (SAT.) 2-4PM