History 104
Fall, 1993
M, W, F 8:50-9:40
1101 Humanities

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History 104 is an introductory level course designed to provide the student with a general knowledge of Japanese history. While the course will mainly be chronological, we will also analyze several broad themes which may cross different historical epochs. The focus of this course is on the unique historical course of Japan. The course is divided into two main parts: pre-modern Japan (to 1867) and modern Japan (1868-present).

No previous knowledge of Japanese history is assumed, or required in order to succeed in the course. However, there will be some comparison with Chinese history. Therefore, students with some knowledge of Chinese history will derive more from the course. Student with no knowledge of Chinese history may want to read ONE of the following books: East Asia; tradition and Transformation by J. K. Fairbank, E. O. Reischauer, and A. M. Craig; A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations by C. Schirokauer; A Macro History of China by Philip Wang or any other general account of Chinese history you like.

Exam and Grades:

There will be two in-classroom exams. The exams will include both identifications and essay questions.

Mid-term exam: Oct. 18, 8:50-9:40; will cover the pre-modern period (to 1867). Identifications: 4 out of 8 terms, 60%; essay questions: 1 out of 3 questions, 40%; The mid-term exam counts for 40% of the course grade.

Final exam: Dec. 18, 2:45-4:45, Modern period only (1868 on) Identifications: 8 out of 12 terms, 40%; essay questions: 2 out of 5 questions, 60%; The final exam counts for 60% of the course grade.

Alternative: Individuals who would like to write a research essay rather than to take exams may consult with the instructor in advance for a special arrangement.
Required text: (available at the University Bookstore)

[Abbreviated to "JAPAN" in the reading assignments]

Recommended books:

(Available at the University Bookstore)
[Abbreviated to "SJT" in the reading assignments]

(Out of print, reserved in College Library Reserve Room)
[Abbreviated to "SJH" in the reading assignments]

Scheduled Movies:

I. Sept. 17(F) 7:30 PM
   1. "Shinto: God, Men & Nature"
   2. "Buddhism: The Land of the Disappearing Buddha - Japan"

II. Oct. 15(F) 7:30 PM
   1. "Yojimbo"
   2. TBA

III. Nov. 19(F) 7:30
   1. Meiji: Asia's Response to the West
   2. "Reinventing Japan"
   3. "Inside Japan, Inc."
   4. "The Colonel Comes to Japan"
DISCUSSION TOPICS AND QUESTIONS

Part I (pre-modern Japan)

1. What are the major differences that you see between Shinto and Christianity, as Christianity is practiced in the United States?

2. By the time of the city of Nara was established, what characteristics did Japan have that were not present in earlier culture like those of the Jomon period? Would you say that changes, if any, had been gradual and haphazard or rapid and deliberate? Why?

3. Discuss the growth and significance of private estates (shoen) in Japan.

4. Why is the Zen spirit so strong in Japanese culture?

5. It is clear that the development of the feudal system in Japan cannot be understood apart from the development of the samurai class itself. Briefly identify the major turning points in the growth of this class from the mid-twelfth century (immediately before the beginning of the feudal period) to the sixteenth century, and describe how the role and functions of the samurai changed at each point.

6. "The end of more than 260 years of Tokugawa rule was primarily the product of the new social and economic forces that developed during the latter part of the Tokugawa era." Do you agree? Why?
DISCUSSION TOPICS AND QUESTIONS

Part II (Modern Japan)

1. Describe the series of events which led to the Meiji Restoration. Describe the domestic and external forces involved with this great change.

2. To what extent and in what specific way did the political changes that took place in Japan between 1868 and 1890 constitute a political revolution?

3. How "appropriate" was the Meiji constitution as a framework for government within the context of political and social conditions that prevailed in Japan at the time of its promulgation?

4. Discuss the role of the state and private enterprise in the process of Japan's industrialization, both before and after World War II.

5. To what extent, if at all, is it appropriate to label Japanese political behavior during the 1930s as "fascist"?

6. To what extent were the MacArthur reforms innovative and to what extent did they build on pre-existing social and political resources?

7. What factors are responsible for Japan's postwar "economic miracle?" How do they differ from those factors responsible for Japanese economic growth from 1912-1945?

8. How could the Liberal Democratic Party remain in office continuously from 1955 to 1993? In what way did opposition parties influence and change the political process?

9. To what extent have the Japanese produced a successful blending of East and West, traditional and modern?
Tentative Calendar of Class Presentations and reading assignments:

I. BEGINNINGS

WEEK ONE
1. Sept. 3(F) Introduction: some distinctive features of Japanese civilization

WEEK TWO
* Sept. 6(M) Labor day (no class)
2. Sept. 8(W) The early stages
   Readings: JAPAN 1-10
3. Sept. 10(F) Shinto and Japan’s mythological origins
   Readings: SJT(I) 21-33

II. CLASSICAL JAPAN

WEEK THREE
4. Sept. 13(M) Impact of Chinese civilization
   Readings: JAPAN 10-18, SJT(I) 47-60, 69-74
5. Sept. 15(W) Buddhism in Japan
   Readings: JAPAN 18-25, SJT(I) 91-110
6. Sept. 17(F) Kojiki and Japanese historiography
   Readings: SJT(I) 1-20

WEEK FOUR
7. Sept. 20(M) Heian Period (794-1185)
   Readings: JAPAN 25-35, SJH(I) 84-99
8. Sept. 22(W) Tale of Genji and Japanese literature
   Readings: SJT(I) 172-180

III. MEDIEVAL JAPAN

9. Sept. 24(F) Kamakura period (1185-1333)
   Readings: JAPAN 39-53

WEEK FIVE
10. Sept. 27(M) Zen Buddhism
    Readings: JAPAN 53-55, 65-72 SJT(I) 226-250
11. Sept. 29(W) Ashikaga period (1336-1573)
    Readings: JAPAN 56-65
12. Oct. 1(F) Arts in pre-modern Japan

WEEK SIX
13. Oct. 4(M) Period of unification (1573-1600)
   Readings: JAPAN 73-80, SJT(I) 302-321

14. Oct. 6(W) The establishment of Tokugawa Shogunate (1600-1867)
   Readings: JAPAN 80-91, SJT(I) 322-334

15. Oct. 8(F) Economic and cultural development in Tokugawa period
   Readings: JAPAN 91-110, SJT(I) 352-68

WEEK SEVEN
16. Oct. 11(M) Intellectual Currents in Tokugawa period
   Readings: SJT(I) 459-96

17. Oct. 13(W) Decline and destruction of the Tokugawa Bakufu
   Readings: JAPAN 110-15

18. Oct. 15(F) Course review: Japanese feudalism

WEEK EIGHT
* Oct. 18(M) Mid-term exam

IV. MODERN JAPAN

19. Oct. 20(W) Japan’s response to the West
   Readings: JAPAN 116-122, SJT(II) 84-109

20. Oct. 22(F) The overthrow of the Tokugawa (1860-1868)
   Readings: JAPAN 122-133

WEEK NINE
   Readings: JAPAN 133-144, SJT(II) 136-140

22. Oct. 27(W) Domestic politics
   Readings: JAPAN 202-233, SJT(II) 182-93

23. Oct. 29(F) The Meiji Constitution (1889)
   Readings: JAPAN 166-84, SJT(II) 155-72

WEEK TEN
   Readings: JAPAN 155-166, SJT(II) 172-82
25. Nov. 3(W) Economic development (1860-1930)
   Readings: JAPAN 145-154, 190-202

26. Nov. 5(F) Independence and empire (1873-1919)
   Readings: JAPAN 184-89, SJT(II) 147-55, 198-200

WEEK ELEVEN
27. Nov. 8(M) Taisho democracy (1912-26)
   Readings: JAPAN 234-44

28. Nov. 10(W) Social movements in the 1920s
   Readings: SJT(II) 211-46

29. Nov. 12(F) The ascendency of militarism
   Readings: JAPAN 245-255

WEEK TWELVE
30. Nov. 15(M) The road to the war
   Readings: JAPAN 255-267, SJT(II) 278-88

31. Nov. 17(W) Japan in the Second War World
   Readings: JAPAN 268-77, SJT(II) 288-98

32. Nov. 19(F) Japan surrender and the emperor system
   Readings: SJH(II) 169-77

V. POSTWAR JAPAN

WEEK THIRTEEN
33. Nov. 22(M) Military occupation (1945-52)
   Readings: JAPAN 277-87, SJH(II) 184-224

34. Nov. 24(W) Special topic: UT and Japan-US relations
   Readings: SJH(II) 227-248

* Nov. 26(F) Thanksgiving recess (no class)

WEEK FOURTEEN
35. Nov. 29(M) Conservative democracy (1950s-)
   Readings: JAPAN 302-314

36. Dec. 1(W) Economic miracle (1950s-)
   Readings: JAPAN 288-302, SJH(II) 249-64

37. Dec. 3(F) Japan and the world
   Readings: JAPAN 314-20, SJT(II) 393-99
WEEK FIFTEEN
38. Dec. 6(M)  Contemporary Japanese politics
39. Dec. 8(W)  Social and cultural trends in contemporary Japan
   Readings: JAPAN 320-35, SJH(II) 264-79
40. Dec. 10(F) Issues on Japanese model

WEEK SIXTEEN
41. Dec. 13(M)  Course summary: Japanese capitalism

* Dec. 15(W) Individual tutorial (no lecture)
* Dec. 18(S)  Final Exam