Syllabus for History/HIS 104
Introduction to Japanese History

**Instructor:** Viren Murthy  
**Meeting Times:** MWF: 9:55 to 10:45  
**Room:** Van Vleck B239  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:45 to 12:00  
**Office:** Mosse Building 4108  
**Email:** vmurthy2@wisc.edu  
**TA:** Jason Morgan

**Course Description and Course Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to the political, intellectual and cultural transformations from ancient times to the present.

Students will learn about a major region of the world, one that has become increasingly prominent in recent years. Moreover, the lectures and the class assignments will allow students to analyze writings about history and construct historical arguments. In addition, students will also learn to think historically about politics and culture, not only in Japan, but in the world.

**Requirements:**

- Attendance and Participation: 20%
- Take-home Exam 1 20%
- Take-home Exam 2 20%
- Final Exam (In-Class) 20%
- Paper: 20%

You are expected to attend all classes and the instructor and TA will randomly take attendance. You are also expected to respond to questions during the lecture by the instructor and participate in the discussion sections with the TA.

The two take-home exams will be primarily essay questions and you will have two days to complete the first exam and one day to complete the second exam. On these exams, I am not only testing your ability to remember what you have read and heard, but to think about the material and construct informed arguments about what you have learned. From this perspective, the exams will prepare you to write your paper.
The Final exam will not be take-home and it will be cumulative. However, the essay question on the final exam will cover only the new material (after the second exam). So the purpose of the final exam is to test your overall knowledge of the course and also give you an opportunity to construct an argument about a topic related to the most recent section of the course.

Students will also be responsible for writing a paper (5-7 pages, Times New Roman Font (12), Double-Spaced) on a topic of their choice. The topic can also be an expansion to one of the essay questions on the mid-term exam.

Students should definitely do some outside research for this paper, but the student can decide whether s/he would like to base the project on primary or secondary works. Students should attempt to construct their own thesis about the topic and defend their position with an argument. Students are encouraged to meet with the TA or the instructor as they formulate their ideas and topics.

It is a requirement that, apart from exams taken in class, all written work be submitted via a web-based program called Enhanced Insite. A special discounted bundle of the Schirokauer book and Enhanced Insite is available at the bookstore (this will be cheaper). Students can also purchase Enhanced Insite direct from the Cengage site here: http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781285168326

Please use the link provided as there are many versions of Enhanced Insite and the incorrect version will not work.

Enhanced Insite contains a writing handbook which will guide students in their efforts to construct college-level arguments which meet the criteria for successful completion of the course.
Enhanced Insite will provide the organizing structure for the peer review process.

Required Materials:

1. *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*, Shirokauer, Lurie and Gay, Available at the bookstore

All other readings will be on the Learn@UW website.

2. Enhanced Insite. This is bundled with the book at the bookstore. It is recommended that you purchase this bundle as it will most likely be your least expensive option versus purchasing the book and Enhanced Insite separately.

Tentative Schedule (Instructor may alter dates and readings during the course of the semester) The readings specified must done before that day of class.
Week 1  Beginnings and Foundations
Sept. 4 Introduction
Lecture on Enhanced Insite by Jean Eske

PART I: Ancient and Medieval Japan

Sept. 6 The Pre-history of the Japanese Archipelago
Shirokauer, 3-13

Week 2: Emergence of the Early State

Sept. 9 Chinese and Korean Backgrounds
Shirokauer, 17-25

Sept. 11 Nara as Center
Shirokauer, 17-31
Sept. 13 Nara contd.

Week 3: Heian Period

Sept. 16 Rise of Fujiwara
Shirokauer, 46-62

Sept. 18 Visual Arts in Heian and beginning of Kamakura
Shirikauer, 62-72

Sept. 20 Religion in Kamakura
Shirokauer, 72-79

Week 4: Religion in Kamakura

Sept. 23 Religion Continued
Shirokauer, 79-91

Sept. 25 Dogen
Dogen Selections

Sept. 27 Muromachi Japan
Shirokauer, 91-112
Week 5: The Concept of Feudalism in Japan

Sept. 30 Feudalism

Oct. 2 Feudalism Continued, S.N. Eisenstadt, Japanese Civilization, A Contemporary View, Chapter, chapter 7, 163-175.
Oct. 4 Receive Take Home Exam Ancient Japan (At the end of class)
Continue discussion of Feudalism

PART II: Early Modern Japan

Week 6: Formation of a New Order

Oct. 7 Take-Home-Exam Due
Eisenstadt, Japanese civilization, chapter 9
Oct. 9 Modernity in Japan,
Eisenstadt, Japanese civilization, chapter 10.

Oct. 11 Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi
Shirokauer, 112-122

Week 7: Japan’s Early Encounters with the West and Early Tokugawa

Oct 14 Portuguese in East Asia
Shirokauer, 122-130

Oct 16 Tokugawa Shogunate
Shirokauer, 130-141

Oct. 18 Intellectual Currents
Shirokauer, 144-151


Week 8: Tokugawa Confucianism and National Learning

Oct. 21 Ogyu Sorai, Ito Jinsai

Essays by Ogyu Sorai and Ito Jinsai
Oct. 23 National Learning and Hiraga Gennai
Reread Motoori, also read Hiraga Gennai

Oct 25 Film
Princess Mononoke,

**Week 9: Japan in the Global Capitalist World**

Oct 28 Film contd.

Oct 30 2nd Late Tokugawa
Shirokauer, 151-167

Nov. 1 Meiji Restauration
Shirokauer, 167-175

**Week 10: Meiji Restauration Contd**

Nov 4 Meiji Restoration as Passive Revolution

Nov. 6 Intellectual and Political Developments
Shirokauer, 175-185

Nov. 8 Conservative and Nationalism
Shirokauer, 185-196

**Week 11: Fukuzwa Yukichi Cond: Civilization and Enlightenment**

Nov. 11 Fukuzwa Yukichi
Fukuzawa selections from *Outline of a Theory of Civilization*

Nov. 13 Fukuzawa
Selections

Nov. 15 Okakura Tenshin
Week 12: Late Meiji and Imperial Japan

Nov. 18 Late Meiji
Shirokauer 197-207

Nov. 20 Taisho Period
Shirokauer, 207-220

Nov. 22 Film Sigeunerweisen

Week 13: Japanese Popular Culture

Nov. 25 Discuss Dinitto Essay and Henry Smith, “The Non-liberal Roots of Taisho Democracy”
Receive Take-Home Exam: Early Modern to Taisho Period
Nov. 27 Exam 2 Due
Eisenstadt, Japanese civilization, chapter Seventeen

Nov. 29
No Class

PART III: Modern and Contemporary Japan

Week 14: Asianism and Postwar Japan

Dec. 2 Militarism and War
Shirokauer 220-232
Turn draft of paper in for peer-review

Dec. 4 Okawa Shumei
Essay on Okawa Shumei

Dec. 6 New Japan
Shirokauer, 232-242

Week 15: Asianism and Late Showa

Dec 8 Takeuchi Yoshim and Asianism in Postwar Japan

Dec. 10 Showa Economy, Culture and Politics
Shirokauer, 243-262
Sakamoto Kyu and the problem of J-pop.
Bourdachs, Sayonara Nippon, chapter on Sakamoto Kyu

Dec 12 Early Heisei, Militarization Contemporary Japan in East Asia
Shirokauer, 262-267

**Turn in Final Draft of Paper**

**Week 16: Exam Week**

Final Exam: Cumulative (in class)