Ancient Japan: History 453  
Fall Semester, 1994, M/W 2:30-3:45  
Professor Julia Thomas  
Office: Humanities Building #4113  
Office Hours: Monday 4-5 and by appointment

Requirements:
- Class Attendance, Take-home Assignments, and Readings
- Quizzes and One research paper, Final "book" review

Required Texts: Books are available in the bookstore and on reserve at the library. Articles are on reserve at the library.
- George Sansom, *A History of Japan to 1334* (Stanford, 1958)
- Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*
- Sei Shonagon, *The Pillow Book*

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Week One: 9/7 Introduction

Week Two: Take-home due September 12
9/12 Debates over Origins and Yamato Prehistory
(Sansom 1-11. Pearson "Contribution of Archeology")
9/14 The Jomon Period
Film: "Exploring Japanese Archeology--Life in the Jomon Period" (46)

Week Three:
9/19 Yayoi and Chinese Travelers (Sansom, 12-40. Sources, 1-12)
9/21 The Unification of Yamato: Version One
The "Unbroken" Imperial Line (Sansom 41-51. Sources 12-33. Piggott "Sacral Kinship"

Week Four:
9/26 The Unification of Yamato: Version Two (Ledyard)
9/28 QUIZ and Group Meeting

Week Five:
10/3 Continental Influences (Sansom 51-81)
Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, Shinto
10/5 Political Consolidation and Prince Shotoku
(Sources 34-51)

Week Six: Take-home due October 10
10/10 The Ideal State: Taika and Taiho Reforms (Sources 52-90)
10/12 The Real State of Rural Life

Week Seven:
10/17 The Nara Court and Buddhism (Sansom 82-98. Sources 91-108)
10/19 Quiz on Asuka and Nara Periods and Group Meeting

Week Eight:
10/24 Introduction to Heian (Sansom 99-128)
10/26 The Early Heian Period and China
(Sansom 129-138. Borgen "The Japanese Mission")

Week Nine: Take-home due October 31
10/31 Heian Buddhism
Saichô and Tendai, Kükai and Shingon (Sources 112-171)
11/2 Daily Life and Popular Beliefs (Sansom 212-233. Raz "Popular Entertainment")

Week Ten:
11/7 The Apex of Fujiwara Power
(Sansom 139-177)
11/9 High Culture (Sansom 178-196. Sources 172-180. Genji Chap 1)
Gagaku video
Week Eleven:
11/14 The Tale of Genji (Chapters 2-9)

Week Twelve: copies of rough drafts due to group members 11/21
11/21 Threats to Fujiwara Dominance and the Warrior Classes (Sansom 197-211, 235-263. Friday "Teeth and Claws."
11/23 QUIZ on the Heian Period and Group Meeting

Week Thirteen: Rewrites due November 30 to group
11/28 Heike and Minamoto (lecture on art for Tale of Heike stuff) (Sansom 264-305)
11/30 Minamoto Yoritomo and the Hōjō Regency (Sansom 306-385)

Week Fourteen: Take-home due December 5
12/5 Administration and Law (Sansom 386-437. Mass "Kamakura Justice")
12/7 Kamakura Buddhism (Miyazaki "Religious Life." Sources: Amida 184-212, Nichiren 213-225, Zen 226-260)

Week Fifteen: Papers due December 14
12/12 Mongol Invasions and Kamakura Decline (Sansom 438-467)
12/14 QUIZ on the Kamakura Period

Note on Writing Assignment:
The paper assignment for this class is not traditional; rather, it is in the form of a short (500-800 word) encyclopedia entry. The overall purpose is for the class as a whole to create an "encyclopedia" of early Japanese history. Each student is responsible for one entry in this encyclopedia and for reviewing and aiding other students in her or his group. As you do the reading for the class, take notes on any item related to your topic and create a bibliography of primary and secondary sources. To supplement this information, independent research will also be necessary. Several times during the semester, groups of students working on related topics will get together to read and review work in progress. The final product will be read by the entire class. Individual entries will be graded on conceptual breadth, precision of language, accuracy of description, quality of the bibliography, and sensitivity to debates over points of fact and interpretation.
**LIST OF TOPICS FOR "ENCYCLOPEDIA" ENTRIES:**

**FOUNDATIONS:**
- Food
- Drink
- Construction of Houses
- Household Furniture
- Clothing
- Bathing and Hygiene
- Disease
- Medicine
- Domesticated Animals

**LIFE CYCLES:**
- Time--Divisions of the Day
- Time--Divisions of the Year
- Time--Groups of Years
- Birth
- Marriage Rites
- Retirement
- Funeral Practices
- Family Size and Organization
- Heirs and Inheritance Practices

**SOCIETY:**
- Land-Holding
- City Planning
- Village Organization
- Public Buildings
- Legal System
- Land Transportation
- Agricultural Practices
- Population
- Secular Education
- Religious Education

**ARTS:**
- Poetry
- Music
- Painting
- Gardens
- Sculpture
- Historical Chronicles
- Fiction
- Diaries
- Ceramics
- Dance

**CONCEPTS:**
- Ideas of Femininity
- Ideas of Masculinity
- Concepts of an After-life
- Concepts of Love
- Ideas of a Just Society
- Concepts of Beauty
- Relations between the Divine and the Human

**THE MILITARY and FOREIGN RELATIONS:**
- China
- Korea
- Ainu
- Shipping and Naval Maneuvers
- Military Training
- Military Tactics
- Weapons
Ancient Japan: Take-Home Assignment #1 Due September 12
Draw free-hand a map of Japan indicating the edge of the Asian continent. Locate the following places or areas: Hokkaidō, Honshū, Shikoku, Kyūshū, Ryūkyū Islands, Okinawa, Tsushima Strait, Izumo, Ise, Kinai Region, Kantō Region, Kurile Islands, Sakhalin, Sea of Japan, Inland Sea, Pacific Ocean, Korea, Nara, Heian/Kyōto, Kamakura, Edo/Tokyo.

Ancient Japan: Take-Home Assignment #2 Due October 10
Make a time line from 550 to 800 showing:
the introduction of Buddhism into Japan, the Soga family’s years of triumph, Shotoku Taishi assumes regency, Shotoku Taishi’s death, the 17 article "constitution," the Taika reforms, the Taihō reforms, the victory of the Nakatomi/Fujiwara clan over the Soga, the capital moves to Nara/Heijo, the capital moves from Nara/Heijo, the capital moves to Kyoto/Heian, the dedication of the Great Buddha in Nara, the first census taken, the Great Smallpox epidemic--hint: see William Wayne Farris’s book, completion of the Kojiki and the Nihongi.

Ancient Japan: Take-Home Assignment #3 Due October 31
Make a time line showing:
the capital moves to Heian, the final two embassies to China during the Heian period, the date when another embassy to be led by Sugawara no Michizane was proposed, the compilation of the Kokinshū, subjugation of the Ainu, Fujiwara hegemony established, life of Fujiwara no Michinaga, The Tale of Genji written, the Early Nine Years War, the Later Three Years War, establishment to government by the "Cloistered" Emperor.

Ancient Japan: Take-Home Assignment #4 Due December 5
Make a time line showing:
the triumph of the Heike, the defeat of the Heike, Joei Code, the completion of the Great Buddha statue in Kamakura, the completion of the Shin Kokinshu, Jokyū Incident, Dogen’s life, Honen’s life, Nichiren’s life, Shinran’s life, the first and second Mongol invasion attempts, the Kemmu Restoration.