

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History

History 104

INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIA--JAPAN

T. Kuskowski-Pieroni / 4122 Humanities / Office Hours M W F 12:00-1:20

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Course Description

This course is a broad introductory survey of Japan from the formation of the Japanese state in the 6th century through the modern transformation of Japan in the Meiji. The unique characteristics of Japanese development will be covered along with broader considerations applicable to societies in general. The latter will include a discussion of myth, class differentiation, and modernization theory.

Some basic themes will unify the course. In the cultural sphere, to what extent did Japan borrow from Chinese models and then adapt them to a unique Japanese mode of expression? What is the relationship between cultural expression and institutional change? How does Japanese feudalism compare with the same development in Europe?

As the Meiji period is the culmination of the course, this period raises many intense and as yet unresolved questions. Was the Meiji restoration in fact a revolution or a continuation of traditional values? What form did Western institutions take in Japan and why? What impact did the world economic structure have upon Japan's internal development?

Obviously, the scope of the course is broad. More important than mere assimilation of content, however, is the capacity to raise significant historical questions.

Format

Although this is primarily a lecture class, questions raised during the lecture are permitted and encouraged. Students should pursue further questions after class and during office hours.

Students are responsible for a minimal number of Japanese terms which are crucial to understanding Japanese history. These terms will appear on the board during lecture.

Two papers are required. The first will be an essay (8-10 pages) using primary sources. (Topics will be discussed in class). The second will be a critical examination of one or more than one work in the field (5-8 pages). A final exam consisting of essay questions will be given. No mid-term is scheduled, but students may request one as a review or to enhance their grade in the course.

Grades will be determined as followed: 30% each for the papers and 30% for the final.

Readings

Donald Keene, ed. ANTHOLOGY OF JAPANESE LITERATURE

Peter Duus. FEUDALISM IN JAPAN

John W. Hall. JAPAN: FROM PREHISTORY TO MODERN TIMES

Ivan Morris. THE WORLD OF THE SHINING PRINCE

Jon Livingston, Leo Moore and Felicia Oldfather, eds. IMPERIAL JAPAN, 1800-1945

Class Schedule

- Sept. 2-4 INTRODUCTION, CREATION MYTHS
Readings: Hall, chs. 1-3
 Keene, Anthology, Introduction
- Sept. 7-11 YAMATO STATE AND RATIONALIZATION OF BUREAUCRACY
Readings: Hall, chs. 4-5
 Morris, "World of Shining Prince," chs. 1-4
- Sept. 14-18 BUDDHISM AND SHINTO
Readings: Hall, ch. 6
 Morris, "World of the Shining Prince," chs. 5-8
- Sept. 21-25 HEIAN CULTURE
Readings: Morris, "World," chs. 9-10
- Sept. 28-Oct. 2 THE RISE OF THE WARRIOR CLASS
Readings: Hall, ch. 7
 Duus, "Feudalism in Japan," chs. 1-3
- Oct. 5-9 KAMAKURA SHOGAUNATE AND THE WARRIOR ETHOS
Readings: Duus, chs. 4-5
 Keene, pp. 179-192
- Oct. 12-16 ASHIKAGA RESTORATION
Readings: Hall, chs. 8-9
- Oct. 19-23 THE EUROPEAN ENCOUNTER AND THE TOKUGAWA SOCIAL ORDER
Readings: Hall, ch. 10
- Oct. 26-30 TOKUGAWA CULTURE
Readings: Keene, pp. 335-377; 391-410
- Nov. 2-6 ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND INTELLECTUAL CURRENTS IN THE TOKUGAWA
Readings: Livingston, Moore and Oldfather, pp. 3-83

- Nov. 9-13 PERRY'S ARRIVAL AND THE PREDICAMENT OF THE BAKUFU
Readings: Hall, chs. 11-12
- Nov. 16-20 MEIJI RESTORATION
Readings: Hall, ch. 13
- Nov. 23-27 THE NEW MEIJI STATES
Readings: Hall, chs. 14-15
 Livingston, Moore, Oldfather, pp. 105-186
- Nov. 30-Dec. 4 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
Readings: Hall, ch. 16
- Dec. 7-11 NATIONALISM AND MODERNIZATION
Readings: Livingston, Moore, Oldfather, pp. 199-240