

## INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIAN HISTORY:

**Japan**

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

Instructor: **Mr. Weiran Lin**  
 Office: 5216 Humanities  
 Hrs: M,W 11-12 & by appt.  
 Phone: (608) 263-1972

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)

Edwin O. Reischauer and Albert M. Craig, Japan: Tradition & Transformation (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1989)  
[Abbreviated to "JAPAN" in the reading assignments]

**Recommended books:**

Wm. Theodore de Bary, Sources of Japanese Tradition, Vol. I & II (New York: Columbia University Press, 1958)  
(Available at the University Bookstore)  
[Abbreviated to "SJT" in the reading assignments]

David John Lu, Sources of Japanese History, Vol. I & II  
(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"

**History 104**

## Introduction to East Asian history: 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 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?

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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(1) 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

21. Oct. 25(M) Meiji Restoration and its meaning  
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

24. Nov. 1(M) Cultural borrowing (1860-1912)  
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 ascendancy 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**