

Department of History
University of Wisconsin-Madison
College of Letters and Science

Japan from Ancient to Modern Times History 104

Spring 2012
MWF 9:55-10:45
1651 Humanities

Professor Louise Young
O.H. Wednesdays 1-3 and by appt.
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Course description

This course surveys Japanese history from ancient to modern times. The content of class lectures and discussion sections ranges over a variety of themes, which include the vectors of politics and structures of the state, connections with the outside world, economic and social organization, popular and elite cultures, and the contours of everyday life. In addition to a basic textbook, readings draw heavily on primary materials such as novels, plays, and autobiographies, allowing us to explore Japanese representations of their social world.

Requirements

Your grade will be based on six week (20%), twelfth week (20%) and final (40%) examinations, as well as participation in discussion sections (20%).

Readings

The following texts have been ordered for purchase at the University Book Store:

Anne Walthall, *Japan: A Cultural, Social, and Political History*
Donald Keene, ed., *Anthology of Japanese Literature*

In addition, a course pack will be made available to include the following readings:

Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*, ix-xxi, 71-108.

The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi, selections.

The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature, Vol. 1:

- Mori Ōgai, "The Dancing Girl," 10-25.
- Tōkai Sanshi, "Strange Encounters with Beautiful Women," 30-45.
- Natsume Sōseki, "Civilization of Modern Day Japan" & "My Individualism," 315-333.

- Edogawa Rampo, “The Human Chair,” 365-375.
 - Kobayashi Takiji, “The Fifteenth of March, 1928,” 451-462.
 - Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, “The Two Acolytes,” 539-554.
- Japan at War: An Oral History*, selections.

Reading Assignments

Complete the assigned pages by Monday of the week listed.

There are two types of readings assigned for this course. The first are from Anne Walthal’s textbook on Japanese history, which emphasizes social history. These will track the chronological narrative presented in lecture. The second are literary texts, which you will be focusing on in your discussion sections. These are intended to give you a feel for using literature as a primary source. While the readings are not long, the textbook is dense and the literary sources need to be read closely and critically. Prepare readings with care and attention to detail.

- Week 1: no reading
 Week 2: Walthal, 1-29.
 Week 3: Keene, 1-58.
 Week 4: Walthal, 30-45; Keene, 106-155.
 Week 5: Walthal, 46-71; Keene, 179-191, 197-212.
 Week 6: Walthal, 72-93; Keene 258-262, 271-300.
 Week 7: NO DISCUSSION SECTIONS
 Week 8: Walthal, 94-119.
 Week 9: Keene, 335-362, 391-409.
 Week 10: Walthal, 1120-134; Keene, 384-390, 410-428.
 Week 11: Walthal, 135-153; *Musui’s Story*, ix-xxi, 70-108, *Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi*, selections.
 Week 12: Mori Ōgai, 10-25; Tōkai Sanshi, 30-45; Natsume Sōseki, 315-333.
 Week 13: Walthal, 154-181; Edogawa Rampo, 365-375; Kobayashi Takiji, 451-462; Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, 539-554.
 Week 14: *Japan at War*, 4-20, and selected interviews.
 Week 15: no reading

Class Schedule

Week 1

- | | |
|------------|---|
| January 23 | introduction |
| January 25 | the ancient world |
| January 27 | early social and political organization |

Week 2

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| January 30 | relations with Korea and China: the continental imprint |
| February 1 | early religion |
| February 3 | understanding the Nara classics: <i>Kojiki</i> & <i>Manyōshū</i> |

Week 3		
	February 6	court politics and the emperor system
	February 8	the “rule of taste”
	February 10	film: Tale of Genji
Week 4		
	February 13	shōen and the political-economy of rural estates
	February 15	the rise of the samurai
	February 17	developments in Japanese buddhism
Week 5		
	February 20	“tent government”
	February 22	religious syncretism
	February 24	understanding the medieval classics: Nō Plays
Week 6		
	February 27	economic change
	February 29	the flowering of warrior culture & society
	March 2	film: Medieval Japan and Buddhism in Japanese Literature
Week 7		
	March 5	<u>six-week examination</u>
	March 7	NO CLASS/NO SECTIONS
	March 9	the great unifiers
Week 8		
	March 12	the Tokugawa order
	March 14	the castle town
	March 16	NO CLASS
Week 9		
	March 19	understanding the Edo classics: <i>kabuki</i> and <i>chōnin</i> literature
	March 21	pilgrimage and the culture of travel
	March 23	film: Tokugawa Japan and Puppet Theater, Novels, and the Haiku of Basho
Week 10		
	March 26	crumbling of the Tokugawa order
	March 28	gunboat diplomacy & opening of Japan
	March 30	the Meiji Restoration

Week 11

April 9 “civilization and enlightenment”
April 11 “revolution from above”
April 13 modernizing the “emperor system”

Week 12

April 16 film: Pacific Century—the Meiji Revolution
April 18 twelve-week examination
April 20 emergence of imperial Japan

Week 13

April 23 industrialization & economic growth
April 25 urbanization & city life
April 27 the problem of the villages

Week 14

April 30 Japan and China
May 2 new orders at home and abroad
May 4 the atomic bomb and the end of the war in Asia

Week 15

May 7 film: Wings of Defeat
May 9 film: Wings of Defeat
May 11 losing the war; winning the peace