

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)

Ryusaku Tsunoda, et.al. Sources in Japanese Tradition,  
Volume I (Columbia, 1958)

Murasaki Shikibu, The Tale of Genji

Sei Shonagon, The Pillow Book

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Richard Pearson, "The Contribution of Archeology to Japanese Studies," Journal of Japanese Studies 2 (summer 1976): 305-334.

Gari Ledyard, "Gallop Along with the Horseriders: Looking for the Founders of Japan," Journal of Japanese Studies 1 (spring 1975): 217-254.

Joan R. Piggott, "Sacral Kingship and Confederacy in Early Izumo," Monumenta Nipponica 44 (spring 1989): 45-74.

Robert Borgen, "The Japanese Mission to China," 801-806, Monumenta Nipponica 37 (spring 1982): 1-28.

Karl Friday, "Teeth and Claws: Provincial Warriors and the Heian Court," Monumenta Nipponica 43 (summer 1988): 151-185.

Jacob Raz, "Popular Entertainment and Politics: The Great Dengaku of 1096," Monumenta Nipponica 40 (autumn 1985): 283-298.

Miyazaki Fumiko, "Religious Life of the Kamakura Bushi," Monumenta Nipponica 47 (winter 1992): 435-467.

Jeffrey P. Mass, "The Origins of Kamakura Justice," Journal of Japanese Studies 3 (summer 1977): 299-322.

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

Saichō and Tendai, Kūkai 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)  
11/16 Sei Shonagon, The Pillow Book (Penguin edition: 21-33, 39-53,  
73-77, 87-109, 149-151, 186-191)

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

THE MILITARY and FOREIGN RELATIONS:

China  
Korea  
Ainu  
Shipping and Naval Maneuvers  
Military Training  
Military Tactics  
Weapons

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

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, Jōei Code, the completion of the Great Buddha statue in Kamakura, the completion of the Shin Kokinshū, Jōkyū Incident, Dōgen's life, Honen's life, Nichiren's life, Shinran's life, the first and second Mongol invasion attempts, the Kemmu Restoration.