

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

**Japan from Ancient to Modern Times
History/EAS 104**

Fall 2017
MWF 8:50-9:40
1651 Humanities

Professor Louise Young
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Course description

This course is an introduction to Japanese history. We begin with the foundations of the Yamato Kingdom, look at the wave of cultural influence from ancient China and Korea, trace the rise and fall of the samurai, and examine the establishment of a modern nation-state. Along the way we explore a variety of themes, including 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. From the most famous novel in world history -- *Tale of Genji* -- to dramatic first-hand accounts of World War Two, we try to see the Japanese past through the eyes of those who lived it.

Requirements

Your performance will be assessed on the following components of the course:

- six week exam (20 %): **October 13**
- 4-6 page essay (20%): **November 20**
- take-home final (30%): **December 19**
- discussion sections (30%)

Grading

- A = 93-100
- AB=88-92
- B = 85-88
- BC = 79-84
- C =72 -78
- D = 65 -71
- F = 64 or below

Readings

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

Conrad Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*

Charles Dunn, *Everyday Life in Traditional Japan*

Donald Keene, ed., *Anthology of Japanese Literature*

In addition the following readings will be available on CANVAS:

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

The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi, 104-140.

Mark Teeuwen, "What Used to Be Called Shinto: The Question of Japan's Indigenous Religion" in Karl Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850*, 66-76

John W. Hall, "Rule By Status in Tokugawa Japan," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 1.1 (1974), 39-50.

E.H. Norman, "People Under Feudalism," *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 9.2 (1977), 56-61.

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

- Mori Ōgai, "The Dancing Girl," 10-25.
- 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

Fukuzawa Yukichi, "Saying Goodbye to Asia," in David Lu, *Japan: A Documentary History: The Late Tokugawa Period to the Present*, 346-347, 351-353.

Haruko and Theodore Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History*, 3-68.

Reading Assignments

Complete the assigned pages by Monday of the week listed (except for week 1, when you should complete the reading by Friday).

There are two types of readings assigned for this course. The first are from Conrad Schirokauer's textbook, which emphasizes political and cultural history. These will track the chronological narrative presented in lecture. The second are literary and other primary texts. We will use these as the basis for developing basic tools to critically analyze and evaluate primary sources. 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: Schirokauer, 1-15.

Week 2: Schirokauer, 16-43; Keene, 54-58.

Week 3: Keene, 33-53; Teeuwen, 66-76.

Week 4: Schirokauer, 45-69; Keene, 106-155.

Week 5: Schirokauer, 70-90; Keene, 179-191, 197-212.

Week 6: examination review, no reading.

Week 7: Schirokauer, 91-110; Keene 258-262, 271-300.

Week 8: John W. Hall, 39-50; E.H. Norman, 56-61; Schirokauer, 111-128.

Week 9: Schirokauer, 129-150; Keene, 335-362, 386-409.

Week 10: Schirokauer, 151-173; Keene, 363-376, 410-428.

Week 11: *Musui's Story*, ix-xxi, 70-108, *Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi*, 104-140.

Week 12: Schirokauer, 174-195; Fukuzawa, 346-347, 351-353.

No discussion sections: Thanksgiving.

Week 13: Schirokauer, 196-219; Mori Ōgai, 10-25; Natsume Sōseki, 315-333.

Week 14: Schirokauer, 220-234; Edogawa Rampo, 365-375; Kobayashi Takiji, 451-462.

Week 15: *Japan at War*, 3-68.

Class Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

September 6 introduction
September 8 the ancient world

Week 2: the Yamato State

September 11 relations with China and Korea
September 13 the continental imprint on the Japanese state
September 15 mythohistory & the *Kojiki*

Week 3: Religion and the Arts

September 18 early religion
September 20 Nara arts & the *Manyōshū*
September 22 film: *Tale of Genji*

Week 4: The Courtly Society

September 25 *Tale of Genji* and gendered cultures
September 27 The Fujiwara and the rule of taste
September 29 court politics and imperial rule

Week 5: The Rise of the Samurai

October 2 the rise of the samurai
October 4 *Heike Monogatari* and the war tales
October 6 “tent government”

Week 6: Sources of Social Power

October 9 shōen and the political-economy of rural estates
October 11 developments in Japanese Buddhism
October 13 **six week exam**

Week 7: Political Disorder and Cultural Renovation

October 16 the Ashikaga Shogunate & the age of disorder
October 18 understanding the medieval classics: Nō Plays as Zen Arts
October 20 the great unifiers

Week 8: Centralized Feudalism

October 23 the Tokugawa system
October 25 Class Trip to Chazen Museum
October 27 Rule by Status

Week 9: cultures of the samurai and the townspeople

October 30 *kabuki* and *chōnin* literature
November 1 taming the samurai
November 3 Writing Workshop

Week 10: late Tokugawa society

November 6 pilgrimage and the culture of travel
November 8 peasantry and the village economy
November 10 crumbling of the Tokugawa order

Week 11: The Meiji Restoration

November 13 aristocrats as agents of change: reading two samurai autobiographies
November 15 gunboat diplomacy & opening of Japan
November 17 the Meiji Restoration

Week 12: Reform Movements

November 20 “civilization and enlightenment” (essay due)
November 22 the Meiji Constitutional system
November 24 NO CLASS: Thanksgiving break

Week 13: Self-strengthening & the Nation

November 27 a sense of nation: reading Mori Ōgai and Natsume Sōseki
November 29 Japanese imperialism
December 1 social change in city and country

Week 14: Interwar Society

December 4 industrialization & economic growth
December 6 views of modern society: reading interwar literature
December 8 from Taisho democracy to Showa militarism

Week 15: World War Two in Asia

December 11 history and memory: reading *Japan at War*
December 13 Japan and China
December 15 World War Two in Asia