

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
University of Wisconsin
Spring 1984



History 104

INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIA: JAPAN

Professor John W. Dower
5114 Humanities Building
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 1-3 p.m.



Course Description. History 104 offers a broad overview of major developments in Japanese history from ancient to recent times. Roughly equal time is given to the following four chronological periods:

- I. Ancient Japan & the Courtly Society (prehistory to the 12th century)
- II. The Age of the Samurai (12th to 19th centuries)
- III. The Modern State up to World War II
- IV. Post-1945 Japan

Lectures range over cultural, social, political, and economic topics, and are complemented with slides and movies. An approximate calendar of class presentations is given at the end of this syllabus (this may be revised as the course proceeds). The fourth class hour will involve discussion sessions, visual presentations, and various campus presentations.

Assigned Readings. There are 5 required books, including 2 literary translations:

- ** Edwin O. Reischauer & Albert M. Craig. JAPAN: TRADITION & TRANSFORMATION (1973).
- ** Ivan Morris. THE WORLD OF THE SHINING PRINCE: COURT LIFE IN ANCIENT JAPAN (1964).
- ** Saikaku Ihara. THIS SCHEMING WORLD (a translation of Seken Munasanyo, originally published in 1692).
- ** Mikiso Hane. PEASANTS, REBELS, AND OUTCASTES: THE UNDERSIDE OF MODERN JAPAN (1982).
- ** Shohei Ooka. FIRES ON THE PLAIN (a translation of Nobi, originally published in 1952).

Course Requirements. There are two in-class examinations, scheduled for February 28 and April 12, and a final examination on May 14. The final will cover the entire course, and at least half of it will involve answering interpretive questions handed out ahead of time.

Grading. In-class exams, 25% each; final exam, 50%.

Tentative Calendar of Class Presentations

1.	January	24	Introduction
2.	"	26	Creation Myths
3.	"	31	Prehistoric Cultures: Jomon, Yayoi, Kofun
4.	February	2	The Tyrannical Written Language
5.	"	7	Buddhism
6.	"	9	Shinto [movie]
7.	"	14	The Courtly Society: the Nara & Heian Periods
8.	"	16	The World of the Shining Prince
9.	"	21	The Emergence of the Samurai
10.	"	23	Feudal Culture
11.	"	28	<u>First examination</u>
12.	March	1	Japan's "Christian Century"
13.	"	6	"Centralized Feudalism": the Tokugawa Period
14.	"	8	The Floating World of the Pleasure Quarters
15.	"	13	Popular & Elite Protest in Late Feudal Japan
16.	"	15	The Overthrow of the Feudal Regime & Meiji Restoration of 1868
	March	17-25	Spring recess
17.	"	27	The Modern State
18.	"	29	The Modern Economy prior to World War Two
19.	April	3	The Age of Imperialism
20.	"	5	The Interwar Crisis
21.	"	10	"Modern Boy" and "Modern Girl" in Interwar Japan
22.	"	12	<u>Second examination</u>
23.	"	17	The Road to Pearl Harbor
24.	"	19	"Know Your Enemy: Japan" [movie]
25.	"	24	The War in Asia
26.	"	26	Hiroshima & Nagasaki in Japanese Memory
27.	May	1	Occupied Japan, 1945-1952
28.	"	3	The Economic "Miracle": Myths & Accomplishments
29.	"	8	Controversy & Protest in Postwar Japan
30.	"	10	"Full Moon Lunch" [movie]
31.	"	14	<u>Final examination (7:45 a.m.)</u>