



HISTORY/ASIAN 104 Introduction to Japanese History

Instructor: Michael Hayata

E-mail: hayata@wisc.edu

Office hours: M 10AM-12PM or by appointment

Office: Humanities 5265

Lecture Time: MWF 8:50-9:40AM

Lecture Location: Humanities 1217

Instruction Modality: in-person



Course Description

This course introduces students to Japanese history from ancient times to the twentieth century. From the construction of the Todaiji to the Freedom and People's Rights Movement and the women's suffrage movement, students will analyze the multiple social transformations and cultural, social, and intellectual currents that shaped everyday life in the archipelago as its people endeavored to recreate Japanese society in their own vision. The first part of the course examines early state formation and the creation of Buddhist and aristocratic cultures in the Nara and Heian courts. The second part examines the rise of the warrior class, maritime trade, and urban culture under the Kamakura, Muromachi, and Tokugawa shogunates. Finally, the third part focuses on state and popular efforts to establish a nation-state, civil society, and empire after the Meiji Restoration.

Credit

This is a 3-credit course. It meets for three, 50-minute class periods each week over the spring semester and carries the expectation that students will work on course learning activities (reading, writing, studying, etc) for about 2 hours out of the classroom for every class period.

Course Designation: Breadth - Either Humanities or Social Science; Level – Elementary; L&S
Credit - Counts as Liberal Arts and Science credit in L&S

Requisites: none

Course Learning Outcomes

By taking this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze primary and secondary sources and construct original arguments regarding the history of Japan.
- Articulate the defining characteristics of Japanese cultural, social, political, and economic developments.
- Examine the demands and debates of several popular movements in Japan.
- Evaluate such cultural works as literature, poetry, visual arts, theater, urban planning, and film as historical sources.
- Understand historical moments and issues in a local, regional, and global context.

Course Requirements

Course Website

<https://canvas.wisc.edu/courses/282537>

Required Texts

- Shirokauer, Lurie, and Gay. *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization* (Cengage Learning, 2013).

All other readings will be posted on the course website in PDF format.

Course Policies

Method of Instruction

This is an in-person course that meets on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for lecture (8:50 – 9:40 AM in Humanities 1217). I will engage in regular and substantive interaction with students through direct instruction, assessment and feedback on student work, and facilitation of group discussion regarding course content.

Grading

A. Attendance: Students are expected to complete the readings and attend lecture. You may miss up to three lectures without hurting this portion of the grade.

B. Midterm Exam: A midterm exam will be administered in class. It will consist of identification and short essay questions.

C. Papers: Students will be responsible for writing two historical analysis essays (Times New Roman Font 12, double-spaced, 3-4 pages). You must construct your own thesis and defend it with an argument that synthesizes multiple primary and secondary sources. Further details will be posted on Canvas.

D. Final Exam: A take-home final will be uploaded to the course website

Attendance	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Paper 1	20%
Paper 2	20%
Final Exam	20%

Grading Scale

A	93–100%
AB	87–92.9%
B	83–86.9%
BC	77–82.9%
C	70–76.9%
D	60–69.9%
F	Below 59.9%

Late Work

Written assignments will be assessed a half letter-grade penalty for each day they are late unless the student presents a documented health or family emergency.

History Lab

The History Lab is a resource center that will assist you with your history papers. It can help you sharpen your skills and become a more successful writer no matter your stage in the writing process – choosing a topic, conducting research, composing a thesis, outlining your argument, revising your drafts. Visit the [History Lab website](#) to schedule virtual appointments or in-person appointments at Humanities 4255.

Course Evaluations

Students will be provided with an opportunity to evaluate this course and your learning experience. You will receive an official email two weeks prior to the end of the semester, notifying you that your course evaluation is available through a digital course evaluation survey tool called [AEFIS](#). In the email you will receive a link to log into the course evaluation with your NetID. Evaluations are anonymous. Student participation is an integral component of this course, and your confidential feedback is important to me. I strongly encourage you to participate in the course evaluation.

University of Wisconsin Policies

Teaching & Learning Data Transparency Statement

The privacy and security of faculty, staff and students' personal information is a top priority for UW-Madison. The university carefully evaluates and vets all campus-supported digital tools used to support teaching and learning, to help support success through [learning analytics](#), and to enable proctoring capabilities. View the university's [full teaching and learning data transparency statement](#).

Privacy of Student Records & the Use of Audio Recorded Lectures Statement

Lecture materials and recordings for this course are protected intellectual property at UW-Madison. Students in this course may use the materials and recordings for their personal use related to participation in this class. Students may also take notes solely for their personal use. If a lecture is not already recorded, you are not authorized to record my lectures without my permission unless you are considered by the university to be a qualified student with a disability who has an approved accommodation that includes recording. [Regent Policy Document 4-1] Students may not copy or have lecture materials and recordings outside of class, including posting on internet sites or selling to commercial entities, with the exception of sharing copies of your personal notes as a notetaker through the McBurney Disability Resource Center. Students are otherwise prohibited from providing or selling their personal notes to anyone else or being paid for taking notes by any person or commercial firm without the instructor's express written permission. Unauthorized use of these copyrighted lecture materials and recordings constitutes copyright infringement and may be addressed under the university's policies, UWS Chapters 14 and 17, governing student academic and non-academic misconduct. (See: [FERPA](#))

Diversity & Inclusion Statement

[Diversity](#) is a source of strength, creativity, and innovation for UW-Madison. We value the contribution of each person and respect the profound ways their identity, culture, background, experience, status, abilities, and opinion enrich the university community. We commit ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and diversity as inextricably linked goals. The University of Wisconsin-Madison fulfills its public mission by creating a welcoming and inclusive community for people from every background – people who as students, faculty, and staff serve Wisconsin and the world.

Disability Access and Inclusion

The University of Wisconsin-Madison supports the right of all enrolled students to a full and equal educational opportunity. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Wisconsin State Statute (36.12), and UW-Madison policy ([UW-855](#)) require the university to provide reasonable accommodations to students with disabilities to access and participate in its academic programs and educational services. Faculty and students share responsibility in the accommodation process. Students are expected to inform faculty [me] of their need for instructional accommodations during the beginning of the semester, or as soon as possible after being approved for accommodations. Faculty [I], will work either directly with the student [you] or in coordination with the McBurney Center to provide reasonable instructional and course-related accommodations. Disability information, including instructional accommodations as part of a

student's educational record, is confidential and protected under FERPA. (See: [McBurney Disability Resource Center](#))

Academic Integrity Statement

By virtue of enrollment, each student agrees to uphold the high academic standards of the University of Wisconsin-Madison; academic misconduct is behavior that negatively impacts the integrity of the institution. Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and helping others commit these previously listed acts are examples of misconduct which may result in disciplinary action. Examples of disciplinary action include, but is not limited to, failure on the assignment/course, written reprimand, disciplinary probation, suspension, or expulsion.

Campus Health and Safety Guidance

Students should consult with the following website for current campus health and safety guidance: covidresponse.wisc.edu.

Additional Resources

- [University Health Services](#)
- [Undergraduate Academic Advising and Career Services](#)
- [Office of the Registrar](#)
- [Office of Student Financial Aid](#)
- [Dean of Students Office](#)
- [Undergraduate Guide](#)

Reading and lecture schedule

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 1

W (1/26) Introduction

F (1/28) Yamato Kingdom

WEEK 2: NARA SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 2

Hiroko Sekiguchi, "The Patriarchal Family Paradigm in Eighth-Century Japan"
Man'yōshū and *Kojiki* excerpts

M (1/31) Asuka Enlightenment

W (2/2) Century of Reform

F (2/4) Nara State

WEEK 3: HEIAN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 3
Haruo Shirane, "The Aesthetics of Power"
Tale of Genji excerpt

- M (2/7) Heian Court
- W (2/9) Fujiwara Regency
- F (2/11) Aristocratic Culture

WEEK 4: GENPEI WAR

Read: *Tale of the Heike* excerpt

- M (2/14) Rise of the Warriors
- W (2/16) Genpei War
- F (2/18) **PAPER 1 DUE**

WEEK 5: KAMAKURA SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 4
Richard von Glahn, "The Ningbo-Hakata Merchant Network and the Reorientation of East Asian Maritime Trade, 1150-1350"
Hojoki excerpt

- M (2/21) Kamakura Shogunate
- W (2/23) Growth of Commerce and Maritime Trade
- F (2/25) Kenmu Restoration

WEEK 6: ASHIKAGA SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapters 5
Matthew Stavros, "Monuments and Mandalas in Medieval Kyoto"

- M (2/28) Ashikaga Shogunate
- W (3/2) World of Kitayama
- F (3/4) Decline of the Shoen System

WEEK 7: SENGOKU PERIOD

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 6

- M (3/7) Warring States

W (3/9) Unification

F (3/11) **MIDTERM EXAM**

WEEK 9: TOKUGAWA SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 7

Eiko Ikegami, "Categorical Protest from the Floating World"

The Love Suicides at Sonezaki

M (3/21) Tokugawa Shogunate

W (3/23) Economic and Social Change

F (3/25) Floating World

WEEK 10: MEIJI RESTORATION

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 8

George Wilson, "*Ee ja nai ka* on the Eve of the Meiji Restoration in Japan"

M (3/28) Tenpo Crisis

W (3/30) Opening of Japan

F (4/1) Meiji Restoration

WEEK 11: MEIJI SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 9

Stephen Vlastos, "Opposition Movements in Early Meiji, 1868-1885" (pp.402-431)

Ueki Emori essays

M (4/4) Early Meiji Government

W (4/6) Freedom and People's Rights Movement

F (4/8) Civilization and Enlightenment

WEEK 12: TAISHO SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 10

Sheldon Garon, "Integrating Women into Public Life"

Hiratsuka Raicho and Yamakawa Kikue essays

M (4/11) Rise of Imperialism

W (4/13) Japan as a World Power

F (4/15) Taisho Democracy

WEEK 13: JAPAN IN CRISIS

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 11

Louise Young, "Colonizing Manchuria"

M (4/18) Showa Depression

W (4/20) Wartime Japan

F (4/22) **PAPER 2 DUE**

WEEK 14: RECONSTRUCTION

Read: Schirokauer, Chapter 12

M (4/25) Film: *Snow Country*

W (4/27) Film: *Snow Country*

F (4/29) Reconstruction

WEEK 15: COLD WAR JAPAN

M (5/2) Cold War Japan

W (5/4) Rapid Economic Growth

F (5/6) Cultures of Protest

FINAL EXAM DUE MAY 9