

History 146A: Cultural History of Japan to 1800

Fall 2019; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00-1:15; Brighton Hall 218



The pleasantest of all diversions is to sit alone under the lamp, a book spread out before you, and to make friends with people of the distant past you have never known.

-- Kenko, *Tsurezuregusa*, 1330

General Information

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

Office: Tahoe 3088

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30-3:00,

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30-11:30

And by appointment

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Catalog Description

HIST 146A: Cultural History of Japan to 1800. History of traditional Japan stressing developments in literature, drama, art, religion, and philosophy in the context of political, social, and economic development. Movies, slides, and readings in Japanese literature will be used. 3 units. GE Area: C-2

Course Description

This is an upper-division course designed for dedicated students who wish to expand their knowledge of Japan. This course seeks to convey a nuanced understanding of Japanese history from its pre-historical genesis until about the 19th century. The course is designed to introduce students to the essence of traditional Japanese culture.

Topics include: Origins of the Japanese People; Formation of the Yamato State; Impact of Chinese Culture; Nara: Buddhism and the State; The Heian Period: Aristocratic Culture; Fujiwara Power; Rise of the Warriors; Kamakura: Warrior Culture; Mongol Invasions; Muromachi History and Culture; Sengoku: Warring States; Arrival of the Europeans; The Three Great Unifiers; The Tokugawa Peace; Early Modern Society and Economy.

We will make use of a wide variety of sources including literature, cinema, art, and music to evoke the textures of the society.

I hope that by the end of the course you will have both a firm understanding of pre-1800 Japanese history and that you will have gained a sense of how to read, think, and write critically about history. I am here not just to impart facts but also to train minds how to think critically about the world around them.

Course Learning Objectives

Students completing this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of history.
2. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
3. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.
5. Demonstrate knowledge of the major events, people, and developments of Japan's history up to about 1800.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the long-term structures of Japanese history and the ways in which Japan has interacted with the world.
7. Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation for a society in great contrast to our own.
8. Demonstrate a sense of how to read, think, and write critically about history.

Required Texts

Nancy K. Stalker. *Japan: History and Culture*.

Royall Tyler (translator), *The Tale of Genji*, by Murasaki Shikibu. Abridged Edition.

Watson, Burton. *The Tales of the Heike*.

Endo Shusaku. *Silence*.

Ikku Jippensha. *Shank's Mare*, Chapters 1, 2, 5, & 6

Requirements and Grading Rubric

There will be two book critiques, one book quiz, one midterm exam, and a final exam that will be weighed in the following manner:

Book Quiz	50 points	(7%)
Book Analyses (2 X 100)	200 points	(31%)
Midterm	200 points	(31%)
Final Exam	<u>200 points</u>	(31%)
	650 total points	

Final Grades will be determined by your overall accumulation of points according to the following schedule:

	B+ = 563 - 581	C+ = 498 - 516	D+ = 433 - 451
A = 602 - 650	B = 537-562	C = 472 - 497	D = 407 - 342
A- = 582 - 601	B- = 517 - 536	C- = 452 - 471	D- = 387 - 406
			F = 386 points or less

Book Analyses

Book analyses should be at least 1000 words but no more than 1500 words in length and must answer the assigned question about the book. The prompts for the books are all posted in the “Book Analysis Prompts” section of Canvas. You are to write a book analysis on any two of the three books listed. It is your choice as to which books to write on. If you fail to submit a book analysis on Canvas by the designated time, I will take that as a sign that you are not writing on that particular book. Hence, I will not accept any late papers.

Book analyses are due on the dates listed below. These deadlines are absolute. You must submit them on **Canvas via Turnitin**. Do not turn them in in class. Do not e-mail them to me. You should leave yourself plenty of time to turn in the paper in case you run into technical difficulties. Book analyses will be evaluated using the rubric “Paper Expectations and Rubric” posted in the “Book Analyses Prompts” section of Canvas.

You do have the option of writing on all three papers and I will only count the score from your two highest papers. You do not, however, have the option of going back and writing a paper that you failed to hand in earlier in the semester. In other words, to take advantage of this option, you must read the first book and turn in the first paper.

Book Quizzes

There will be one book quiz worth fifty points on *Silence*. It will be given at the beginning of class on the date listed below. The quiz is designed to see how well you

have read the book. We will discuss *Silence* following the quiz. If upon completion of the quiz you leave class early without a valid reason, you will receive a zero on the quiz.

If you miss the book quiz, or show up too late to take it, for a valid reason determined by me, then you must write a 1000-word essay on a topic of my choosing. The paper will be due one week following the quiz date. Consequently, you must get the question from me as soon after you missed the quiz as possible. Failure to hand in the make-up essay within one week will result in you receiving a zero on the quiz. You must provide evidence as to why you missed the quiz.

NOTE: SPECIAL BOOK QUIZ RULE. I expect you to read the entire book and to come to class prepared to take the quiz. If you have read the book, you should do well on the quiz. If you have not read the book, or have only read parts of the book, you do not deserve credit. You must get at least 60% of the questions (15 of the 25) correct to earn a score. If you earn less than 60% your score for the quiz will be 0 (ZERO).

Bring a Scantron 882-ES for the Book Quizzes

Exams

The exams will consist of matching, identifications, and one essay question. They will cover the assigned portions of the text, the assigned readings, my lectures, and everything we discuss in class. About two weeks prior to the examination date I will post on Canvas a study guide of all the terms and essay questions that you will need to know for the exam.

Make up exams are allowed only under the following conditions. A student must contact me before the exam or during the exam day. Next, the student will confer with me in my office to determine whether a make-up exam is warranted. If a student contacts me after the exam, he/she must provide extensive documentation explaining the failure to take the exam before I decide whether a make-up will be given.

Bring a Large Bluebook or Greenbook to take the exam.

Canvas: I will be using Canvas to post my lecture outlines, the syllabus, the book analyses questions, and to keep track of your grades.

Readings assigned from the text are expected to be done. They are assigned to help you understand the lectures which form the backbone of the course.

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. (How else can you learn?) Students should notify me in the event of extended absence. Withdrawals will be permitted only up to the scheduled deadline.

No students may leave the classroom before the class hour ends unless I am informed before class of an unavoidable appointment.

All cellular telephones must be turned off or turned to silent. A disruption of class caused by your phone ringing will be held against you.

I also expect everyone to be respectful and considerate in the class. I view texting in class as being extremely disrespectful and it will negatively affect your grade.

Class Participation pertinent to the topic under discussion is encouraged. Everyone is expected to be prepared and to participate. Active participation may be used to determine the final grade in borderline cases.

Academic Honesty

This course follows the CSUS Academic Honesty policy. If you are not familiar with California State University, Sacramento’s Policies and Procedures Regarding Academic Honesty, please read them.

In short, CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM will not be tolerated and may result in failure of the course and possible referral for academic discipline. I expect your papers and exam answers to be your own work. If they are not, beware!

Course Outline and Schedule

Week	Date	Lectures	Readings
Week 1	Aug. 27	Course Introduction Geographic Setting and Mythological Origins The Archaeological Record: Racial Origins and Prehistoric Cultures—Jomon (ca. 8,000 - 300 B.C.)	
	Aug. 29	The Archaeological Record: Racial Origins and Prehistoric Cultures—Jomon (ca. 8,000 - 300 B.C.) and Yayoi (ca. 300 B. C. - 300 A.D.) The Ainu	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 1.
Week 2	Sept. 3	Kofun Tomb culture The Yamato Age (ca. 300-710); Chinese and Korean Background to the Introduction of Buddhism	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .

	Sept. 5	Shinto, Buddhism, & Confucianism	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .
Week 3	Sept. 10	Prince Shotoku and the Chinese Enlightenment Nara and the Age of Reform	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .
	Sept. 12	Nara and the Age of Reform, cont.	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .
Week 4	Sept. 17	The Heian Period and the Rise of the Fujiwara	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 3; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .
	Sept. 19	Heian Culture & Religion	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 3; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .
Week 5	Sept. 24	Heian Culture & Religion, cont	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 3; <i>The Tale of Genji</i> .
	Sept. 26	Book Analysis # 1 on <i>The Tale of Genji</i> DUE Discussion of <i>The Tale of Genji</i>	
Week 6	Oct. 1	Shoen; Insei: Cloistered Government	
	Oct. 3	The Rise of the Provincial Warrior Class Founding of the Kamakura Shogunate & Kamakura Politics	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4.
Week 7	Oct. 8	MIDTERM Bring a Large Bluebook or Greenbook	
	Oct. 10	Marathon Monks and Ninja	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .
Week 8	Oct. 15	The Rise of the Provincial Warrior Class Founding of the Kamakura Shogunate & Kamakura Politics	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .

	Oct. 17	Popularization of Buddhism Kamakura Culture; Mongol Invasion	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .
Week 9	Oct. 22	Discussion of <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> Book Analysis # 2 on <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> DUE	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .
	Oct. 24	Overthrow of the Kamakura Shogunate; Ashikaga/Muromachi	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5.
Week 10	Oct. 29	Piracy and Trade with China; Onin Wars; Muromachi Politics	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5.
	Oct. 31	Muromachi Culture: The Tea Ceremony; Noh and Renga	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5.
Week 11	Nov. 5	Muromachi Culture: The Tea Ceremony; Noh and Renga, Continued; Emergence of the Daimyo; Sengoku: Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5; <i>Silence</i> .
	Nov. 7	Book Quiz on Silence Discussion of <i>Silence</i> Europeans and Christianity in Japan	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5; <i>Silence</i> . 6.
Week 12	Nov. 12	Ieyasu's Consolidation: The Bakuhan System	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5; <i>Silence</i> .
	Nov. 14	Tokugawa Tsuneyoshi, Genroku Japan, and 47 Ronin	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 6; <i>Shank's Mare</i> , Ch. 1, 2, 5, & 6
Week 13	Nov. 19	TEA CEREMONY Meet in the Sacramento State Tea Room in the basement of the Library	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 6; <i>Shank's Mare</i> , Ch. 1, 2, 5, & 6
	Nov. 21	Book Analysis # 3 <i>Shank's Mare</i> DUE Discussion of <i>Shank's Mare</i>	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 7; <i>Shank's Mare</i> , Ch. 1, 2, 5, & 6

Week 14	Nov. 26	Chonin Culture: Kabuki, Bunraku, and Woodblock Prints	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 7.
	Nov. 28	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY	
Week 15	Dec. 3	Tokugawa Material Culture	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 7.
	Dec. 5	Catch-up and review	

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, December 10, 12:45-2:45