

History 280A

Graduate Reading Seminar: Topics in World History

THE SAMURAI

Fall 2015; Mondays 6:00-8:50; Academic Resource Center 1008

General Information

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

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Office Hours: Mondays 4:30-5:30, Tuesdays 11:00-12:00,

Wednesdays 10:00-11:00, and by appointment

Catalog Description

This seminar will examine the history of the samurai warrior, from their emergence in the Heian period to their elimination in the Meiji period. The course will focus primarily on secondary sources starting with *The First Samurai* and ending with *The Last Samurai*. We will also read a few primary source treatises on samurai philosophy, such as Miyamoto Musashi's *The Book of Five Rings*. The course will focus on the idea of what is a samurai and how did the image and role of the samurai evolve over time.

Course Objectives

- To gain a deeper understanding of the nature of historical scholarship.
- To delve into the interpretation of history through an examination of the evolution of the samurai warriors of Japan.
- To gain a sense of how to read, think, and write critically about history.
- To understand how historians piece together and interpret history based on the fragmentary evidence that remains.

Required Texts

1. Karl Friday, *The First Samurai: The Life and Legend of the Warrior Rebel, Taira Masakado*, (Wiley, 2008).
2. William Wayne Farris, *Heavenly Warriors: The Evolution of Japan's Military 500-1300*, (Harvard, 1996).
3. Jeffrey Mass, *Yoritomo and the Founding of the First Bakufu: The Origins of Dual Government in Japan*, (Stanford, 1999).
4. Paul H. Varley, *Warriors of Japan: As Portrayed in the War Tales*, (Hawaii, 1994).
5. Mikael S. Adolphson, *The Teeth and Claws of the Buddha: Monastic Warriors and Sohei in Japanese History*, (Hawaii, 2007).
6. Thomas Conlan, *State of War: The Violent Order of the Fourteenth-Century Japan*, (Michigan, 2003)
7. Peter D. Shapinsky, *Lords of the Sea: Pirates, Violence and Commerce in Late Medieval Japan*, (Michigan, 2014).
8. Stephen Turnbull, *War in Japan 1467-1615* (Osprey 2002).
9. Mary Berry, *Hideyoshi*, (Harvard, 1989).
10. Constantine Vaporis, *Tour of Duty: Samurai, Military Service in Edo and the Culture of Early Modern Japan*, (Hawaii, 2008).

11. Hiroaki Sato, *Legends of the Samurai*.
12. Mark Ravina, *The Last Samurai: The Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori*, (Wiley, 2003)
13. Inazo Nitobe, *Bushido: The Soul of Japan*, (Kodansha 2012).

Requirements and Grading Criteria

Class participation	30%
Discussion leader	10%
Position papers	50%
Final Paper	10%

Readings

Since everyone is required to participate in the class discussion, it is imperative that you do the reading.

Class Participation

Class participation forms a major portion of your grade. Everyone is expected to be prepared and to participate in class discussions. I am looking for quality insightful comments.

Discussion Leader

Every week one or two students will lead the class discussion on the reading. Discussion leaders must come to class prepared to lead the discussion with prepared discussion points. Discussion leaders do not have to turn in a paper for the book they are leaders on.

Position Papers

Position papers should be double spaced and at least 600 words, but no more than 1000 words in length. Roughly two to three pages. These papers should contain a succinct summary of the thesis of the work and your critical reaction to it. Through the position paper you must show me that you have thought critically about the reading. Do not summarize the reading! Focus on the thesis of the reading and write a cogent and analytical paper that takes a position for or against the thesis and is supported with evidence. Position papers must take into consideration who the author is and what sources are used to back up the arguments. Position papers should be clearly organized and well written.

You must write a position paper for every reading, except for the one in which you are the discussion leader. For certain weeks I will guide you in terms of a focus for your paper. **I will not accept any late position papers.**

Final Paper

Your final paper should be between 4,000-5,000 words in length (8-10 pages) and should answer the following question: "Who were the samurai?" Your answer should incorporate at least 6 of the scholarly readings we have done over the course of the semester into the answer.

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class, arrive on time, stay to the end, and to participate in class discussions. Your participation is an integral part of your grade.

I understand that you have busy lives and that emergencies do arise. Thus, you are allowed to miss one class before absences affect your grade. Miss two classes your final grade will be lowered by 1/3 a grade (e.g. B+ to a B), miss three classes a full grade (e.g. B+ to C+), missing 4 classes will result in you automatically failing the class.

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. They can be found at:

<http://www.csus.edu/um anual/AcademicHonestyPolicyandProcedures.htm>

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 CECs to be your own work. If it is not, beware!

Course Outline and Schedule

WEEK	DATE	READINGS
Week 1	Aug. 31	Introduction to Course
Week 2	Sept. 7	Memorial Day
Week 3	Sept. 14	Karl Friday, <i>The First Samurai: The Life and Legend of the Warrior Rebel, Taira Masakado.</i>
Week 4	Sept. 21	William Wayne Farris, <i>Heavenly Warriors: The Evolution of Japan's Military 500-1300.</i>
Week 5	Sept. 28	Jeffrey Mass, <i>Yoritomo and the Founding of the First Bakufu: The Origins of Dual Government in Japan.</i>
Week 6	Oct. 5	Paul H. Varley, <i>Warriors of Japan: As Portrayed in the War Tales.</i>
Week 7	Oct. 12	Mikael S. Adolphson, <i>The Teeth and Claws of the Buddha: Monastic Warriors and Sohei in Japanese History.</i>

Week 8	Oct. 19	Thomas Conlan, <i>State of War: The Violent Order of the Fourteenth-Century Japan</i> .
Week 9	Oct. 26	Peter D. Shapinsky, <i>Lords of the Sea: Pirates, Violence and Commerce in Late Medieval Japan</i> .
Week 10	Nov. 2	Stephen Turnbull, <i>War in Japan 1467-1615</i>
Week 11	Nov. 9	Mary Berry, <i>Hideyoshi</i>
Week 12	Nov. 16	Constantine Vaporis, <i>Tour of Duty: Samurai, Military Service in Edo and the Culture of Early Modern Japan</i> .
Week 13	Nov. 23	Hiroaki Sato, <i>Legends of the Samurai</i> . (Selections)
Week 14	Nov. 30	Mark Ravina, <i>The Last Samurai: The Life and Battles of Saigo Takamori</i> .
Week 15	Dec. 7	Inazo Nitobe, <i>Bushido: The Soul of Japan</i>

Final Paper Due: Monday, Dec. 14th, between 6:00-6:30.