

History 146A: Cultural History of Japan to 1800

Fall 2023; Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00-1:15; Academic Recourse Center 1016



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

<http://www.csus.edu/faculty/d/dym/>

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e-mail: Dym@csus.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:30-11:30 & 1:30-2:00,

Wednesdays 10:00-11:00 & 3:00-3:30, and by appointment

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*.

Edward Seidensticker, translator. *The Gossamer Years: A Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan*.

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

Endo Shusaku. *Silence*.

Amy Stanley. *Stranger in the Shogun's City*.

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:

Attendance	26/28	10%
Book Quiz	1	10%
Book Analyses	2 out of 3	30%
Midterm	1	25%
Final Exam	1	25%

Just a note about your grade. This is not an accumulation of points class. Each item is weighted as laid out above. Canvas will weigh the grades automatically. Assignments are out of 10, 25 or 200 points for the various items simply because it is easier for me to calculate the score that way.

Final Grades will be determined by overall course %

	B+ = 87-89%	C+ = 77-79%	D+ = 65-69%	
A = 93-100%	B = 83-86%	C- = 73-76%	D = 60-64%	
A- = 90-92%	B- = 80-82%	C- = 70-72%		F = 59% or less

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. I do understand that you all have lives outside of Sacramento State and that at times obligations come up that you must deal with. We are also living in very uncertain times. Thus, you are allowed to miss two class before your grade is affected.

Everyone is expected to be prepared and to participate in class discussion. I am looking for quality insightful comments.

Arriving late equals half attendance credit. In other words, two late classes equal one missed class.

The attendance portion of the class will be graded as follows:

2 or less missed classes = 100%	3 missed classes = 90%
4 missed classes = 80%	5 missed classes = 75%
6 missed classes = 70%	7 missed classes = 60%
8 or more missed classed = 0%	

BOOK ANALYSES

Book analyses must 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. Papers should be double-spaced using a 12 point font. Do not insert blank lines between paragraphs. Papers must be submitted as Microsoft word document. .doc or .docx

General expectations:

- The paper must have a thesis!
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- Ideally the thesis will be expressed in a well articulated sentence in the introductory paragraph. You should lay out your argument without explicitly saying, "In this paper I am going to show. . . ."
- There should be a smooth transition of ideas between paragraphs. The paper should flow seamlessly between arguments.
- There should be a conclusion that sums up your paper and contains some insight and interpretation.
- Your paper must have a good title; NOT: Paper # 1
- The paper should be clearly written and free of errors, especially blatant ones like missing pages that indicate you did not proofread.
- Papers should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- All character's names should be spelled correctly

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.

For free, one-on-one help with writing in any class, visit the **University Reading and Writing Center in Calaveras 128**. The Reading and Writing Center can help you at any stage in your reading and writing processes: coming up with a topic, developing and organizing a draft, understanding difficult texts, or developing strategies to become a better editor. To make an appointment or a series of appointments, visit the Reading and Writing Center in CLV 128. They also offer tutoring for one unit of academic credit through ENGL121. For current Reading and Writing Center hours and more information, visit the website at www.csus.edu/writingcenter.

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.

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 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 integrity

This course follows the Hornet Honor Code.

As Hornets, we will:

1. Promote an inclusive campus and community.
2. Listen and respect each other's thoughts, interests, and views.
3. Value diversity and learn from one another.
4. Engage daily with mutual trust, care, and integrity.
5. Support a culture of honor and adhere to campus policies for honesty, ethics, and conduct.
6. Be proud to be Sac State Hornets.

Student Rights and Responsibilities: [Student Rights Responsibilities](#)

Academic Calendar: [Sacramento State Academic calendar](#)

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

If you have a documented disability and require assistance or academic accommodation please contact Services for Students with Disabilities immediately to discuss eligibility. The Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSWD) is located on the Sacramento State Lassen Hall 1008, 916-278-6955 (Phone), 916-278-7239 (TDD). For a complete listing of services and current business hours visit <http://www.csus.edu/sswd>

Sacramento State is committed to ensuring that our online learning tools are usable by all students and faculty including those with disabilities. If you encounter any accessibility issues with the course or instructional content, please contact our SSWD office. They will assist you in resolving the issue or, where appropriate, connect you with appropriate staff.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Academic Advising: [Academic Advising](#)

Student Success Center: [Student Success Center](#)

Reading and Writing Center: [Reading & Writing Center](#)

Peer & Academic Resource Center: [PARC](#)

Martin Luther King Center: [Martin Luther King Center](#)

Multicultural Center: [Multicultural Center](#)

Dreamer Resource Center: [Dreamer Resource Center](#)

Crisis Assistance and Resource Education Support (CARES): [CARES website](#)

If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away! The CARES office provides case management support for any enrolled student. Email the CARES office at cares@csus.edu to speak with a case manager about the resources available to you.

Student Health and Counseling Services: [Student Health and Counseling Services](#)

Basic Needs Support:

If you are experiencing challenges in the area of food and/or stable housing, help is just a click, email or phone call away! Sacramento State offers basic needs support for students who are experiencing challenges in these areas. Please visit our Basic Needs website to learn more about your options and resources available <https://www.csus.edu/basicneeds/>

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Lectures	Readings
Week 1	Aug. 28	Course Introduction Geographic Setting and Mythological Origins The Archaeological Record: Racial Origins and Prehistoric Cultures—Jomon (ca. 8,000 - 300 B.C.)	
	Aug. 30	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	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 1.
Week 2	Sept. 4	NO CLASS: LABOR DAY	

	Sept. 6	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 Gossamer Years</i> .
Week 3	Sept. 11	Shinto, Buddhism, & Confucianism	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Gossamer Years</i> .
	Sept. 13	Prince Shotoku and the Chinese Enlightenment Nara and the Age of Reform	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Gossamer Years</i> .
Week 4	Sept. 18	Nara and the Age of Reform, cont.	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 2; <i>The Gossamer Years</i> .
	Sept. 20	The Heian Period and the Rise of the Fujiwara	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 3; <i>The Gossamer Years</i> .
Week 5	Sept. 25	Heian Culture & Religion	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 3; <i>The Gossamer Years</i> .
	Sept. 27	Heian Culture & Religion, cont	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 3; <i>The Gossamer Years</i> .
Week 6	Oct. 2	Book Analysis # 1 on <i>The Gossamer Years</i> DUE Discussion of <i>The Gossamer Years</i>	
	Oct. 4	Shoen; Insei: Cloistered Government	
Week 7	Oct. 9	The Rise of the Provincial Warrior Class Founding of the Kamakura Shogunate & Kamakura Politics	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4.
	Oct. 11	MIDTERM Bring a Large Bluebook or Greenbook	
Week 8	Oct. 16	Marathon Monks and Ninja	Stalker, <i>Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .

	Oct. 18	The Rise of the Provincial Warrior Class Founding of the Kamakura Shogunate & Kamakura Politics	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .
Week 9	Oct. 23	Popularization of Buddhism Kamakura Culture; Mongol Invasion	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .
	Oct. 25	Discussion of <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> Book Analysis # 2 on <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> DUE	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 4; <i>The Tale of the Heike</i> .
Week 10	Oct. 30	Overthrow of the Kamakura Shogunate; Ashikaga/Muromachi	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5.
	Nov. 1	Piracy and Trade with China; Onin Wars; Muromachi Politics	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5.
Week 11	Nov. 6	Muromachi Culture: The Tea Ceremony; Noh and Renga	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5.
	Nov. 8	Muromachi Culture: The Tea Ceremony; Noh and Renga, Continued; Emergence of the Daimyo; Book Quiz on Silence Discussion of <i>Silence</i> Europeans and Christianity in Japan	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5; <i>Silence</i> .
Week 12	Nov. 13	Sengoku: Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi Ieyasu's Consolidation: The Bakuhan System	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 5; <i>Silence</i> .
	Nov. 15	Tokugawa Tsuneyoshi, Genroku Japan, and 47 Ronin	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 6; <i>Shank's Mare</i> , Ch. 1, 2, 5, & 6
Week 13	Nov. 20	Chonin Culture: Kabuki, Bunraku, and Woodblock Prints	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 6; <i>Shank's Mare</i> , Ch. 1, 2, 5, & 6

	Nov. 22	No Class: Read <i>Stranger in the Shogun's City</i> and work on your papers.	
Week 14	Nov. 27	TEA CEREMONY Moved to 27th Meet in the Sacramento State Tea Room in the basement of the Library	
	Nov. 29	Book Analysis # 3 <i>Stranger in the Shogun's City</i> DUE Discussion of <i>Stranger in the Shogun's City</i>	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 7.
Week 15	Dec. 4	Tokugawa Material Culture	<i>Stalker, Japan: History and Culture</i> , chapter 7.
	Dec. 6	Catch-up and review	

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 13, 10:15-12:15