

Course Syllabus

Course Information

HST 4359.002

F 9:30-12:15

EARLY JAPAN

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Joan E. Mortensen

Office Hours: Before and after class & By appointment

Phone: 972-727-5220 (home)

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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None.

Course Description

This class will explore Japanese history from its prehistoric beginnings through the early 18th century. Topics discussed in the first half of the course include the indigenous culture of ancient Japan, trade and cultural contacts with China and Korea, and the formation of the Japanese Imperial State. Students will view the aristocratic culture of Heian Japan through the novel *The Tale of Genji*.

The second half of course will cover the origins and role of the samurai class in the medieval Japan, cultural contacts with Europe during the Warring States Period (1467-1600), and the unification of Japan by Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1600. The class will culminate with a study of the story of 47 Ronin.

Film will be an integral part of the course. Students will be introduced to the samurai film as a genre and see portions of films such as Mizoguchi's *Tales of the Taira Clan*.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

In this class students will study the historical foundations of Japanese culture. Students will understand the implications of the archeological findings from the prehistoric period, the significance of Japan's cultural contact with the mainland, and socio-political institutions of the aristocratic and feudal periods of Japanese history. Students will also understand the origins and significance of the samurai class in Japanese history. Through a study of original documents as

well as literature and film, students will compare the “reality” of samurai life with the myths and legends surrounding these warriors.
Students will participate in discussions about primary source materials and literature written during this historical period.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*, translated and abridged by Edward Sidensticker
Also, ebook chapter “The Broom Tree”, [www.Globusz.com/ebooks/Genji/00000010.htm](http://www.globusz.com/ebooks/Genji/00000010.htm)

Pierre Francois Souyri, *The World Turned Upside Down: Medieval Japanese Society*
Hiroaki Sato, *Legends of the Samurai*
David J. Lu, *Japan: A Documentary History: The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period*

Ebooks: Richard, Bowring, *The Tale of Genji: A Student Guide*
Edward Sidensticker, “The Broom Tree” chapter of the *Tale of Genji*, **see**
online ebook: www.globusz.com/ebooks/Genji/00000010.htm

Note: You may use the online ebook of *The Tale of Genji*, for all reading in the *Tale of Genji* if you choose. We are reading the chapters from the “Paulownia Court” through “The Picture Contest”.

You can omit the chapters “The Shell of the Locust “, “The Safflower”, “Wormwood Patch” and “Gatehouse Chapters”. chapters.

Useful websites: www.taleofgenji.org/summary.html
http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org/content.cfm/early_japan_50000_bc_710_ad

Suggested Reference Materials (on reserve)

Ivan Morris, *The World of the Shining Prince*
Alain Silver, *The Samurai Film*
David Desser, *The Samurai Films of Akira Kurasawa*

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Jan. 11 Class Introduction, Japan’s Prehistory
 A Documentary History of Japan, pp. 1-20

http://aboutjapan.japansociety.org/content.cfm/early_japan_50000_bc_710_ad

Jan. 18 The Impact of Chinese Civilization
 A Documentary History of Japan, pp. 21-50
 Legends of the Samurai, pp. 3-18.

Jan. 25 Early Heian
 The Tale of Genji, "The Paulownia Court" (abridged or ebook)
 "The Broom Tree" –only in ebook or unabridged-
 "Evening Faces"
 "Lavender"
 "An Autumn Excursion"

ebook: Study Guide on Tale of Genji – Chapters 1-3
Quiz 1

Feb. 1 Heian *The Tale of Genji*, "The Festival of the Cherry Blossoms"
 "Heartvine", "The Sacred Tree"
 "The Orange Blossoms", "Suma",
 "Akashi", "Channel Buoys", "A Picture Contest"

Response Paper 1 due.

Feb. 8 Origins of the Warrior class: The World Turned Upside Down, pp. 1-28;
 Film Sansho the Bailiff.

Feb. 15 Rise of Feudalism; Kamakura Bakufu
 The World Turned Upside Down, pp. 30-100; Legends 19-70.

Feb, 22 Kamakura – Legends- pp. 71-92, 111-156. (Minamoto Yoshitsune)
 A Documentary History, pp. 81-86, 90-92, p. 103, 105.

Feb. 29. Zen and the Samurai; A Documentary History pp. 126-32, 138-142, p. 145
(Nichiren, Buddhism with Japan at the Center)

Rough drafts of paper w bibliography due.

March 7 The Samurai Ideal:
 Film: Tales of the Taira Clan

Quiz 2

March 14 Spring Break

Mar. 21 The Ashikaga Shogunate
 The World Turned Upside Down, pp. 142-180; *Documentary History*: pp. 147-170

Mar. 28. Muromachi (Ashikaga) Culture
 Legends 156-202.

April 4 Warring States or Sengoku Period.

World Turned Upside Down, pp. 181-217 ; *Documentary History*, pp. 186-201

April 11. Warring States Period; Legends pp. 202-246.

April 11 – Research Paper due

April 18. Unification of Japan & Bushido; Legends pp. 249-303.

Quiz 3

April 25 -47 Ronin; Legends, pp. 304-338

May 2 Final Response Paper due in Class

Quiz 4. (makeup quiz)

Grading Policy

There will be four in class quizzes. I will average the top 3 grades. There will be a 6-8 page research paper.

There will be 2 response papers.

In class quizzes : 30 %

1st Response Paper: 15%

2nd Response Paper: 25%

Research paper 25%

Discussion: 5%

Course & Instructor Policies

Much of the material covered in the lectures is not in the reading.

Hence, class attendance is important and will be noted. If you cannot attend class, you should ask someone to take notes for you and pick up the class handouts. When you attend class, you are expected to arrive on time and stay for the entire class. There will be a 10 minutes break during class. If you need to leave early, I need to know before the beginning of class.

Cell phones must be turned off during class.

Please bring the books we are studying to class with you.

Late papers: Term papers and response papers should be turned in on time.

Response Papers: 20 points will be deducted if late.

Research Paper: 5 points will be deducted if paper is 1 class period late. 15 points will be deducted if a paper is turned in any later than one class period.

No Makeup Quizzes will be offered.

Field Trip Policies

Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities

Off-campus, out-of-state, and foreign instruction and activities are subject to state law and University policies and procedures regarding travel and risk-related activities. Information

regarding these rules and regulations may be found at the website address http://www.utdallas.edu/BusinessAffairs/Travel_Risk_Activities.htm. Additional information is available from the office of the school dean. Below is a description of any travel and/or risk-related activity associated with this course.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university

encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.