

## *Course Syllabus*

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### **Course Information**

HIST 4358 09

THE SAMURAI

### **Professor Contact Information**

Dr. Joan E. Mortensen

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

HIST 1301, HIST 1302

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### **Course Description**

This class will explore the historical role of the samurai class in Japan as well as its portrayal in literature and film. Students will study the story of the 47 ronin, Japan's national legend, and compare and contrast the version of events in the historical documents with the rendering of the story in film and literature. Students will also examine the decline of the samurai ideal in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as compare and contrast the samurai ideal with that of the American cowboy.

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### **Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes**

Students will study the historical and cultural significance of the samurai class in Japan. Through an analysis 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 and work on group projects based on primary source materials as well as literature and film.

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### **Required Textbooks and Materials**

#### *Required Readings:*

##### *Books:*

John Allyn, *The Story of the 47 Ronin*  
Stephen Turnbull, *The World of the Warrior*  
Hiroaki Sato, *Legends of the Samurai*

##### *Electronic Reserve: <http://utdallas.docutek.com/>*

Ivan Morris, "Minamoto no Yoshitsune: Victory Through Defeat", *Nobility of Failure*  
DT Suzuki, *Zen and Japanese Culture*  
William Scott Wilson, *The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi*

*Ebook: A Short History of Japan,: From Samurai to Sony*  
*Curtis Andressen*  
*Website- Black Ships and Samurai: MIT Visualizing Cultures*

The electronic course reserves page for Hist 4358 09 is:

<http://utdallas.docutec.com/>

This page is only accessible with a password. The password will be distributed in class.

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### Assignments & Academic Calendar

**WEEKLY JOURNAL ENTRIES:** Each week, you should post a 1 page journal entry on an Elearning discussion board. This entry will be a response to the film(s) you have viewed during that week. Each entry should be complete by 5 pm on the following Sunday. For example, your response to the film on July 7<sup>th</sup> should be posted by 5 pm on July 11<sup>th</sup>. (Each discussion board will have a question for you to consider in your response). The journal entry will be graded and not read by other students. After all journal entries have been read and graded, I will post the entries for the class to read, unless you do not wish your work to be posted (let me know).

### WEEK 1: ORIGINS OF THE SAMURAI

#### July 5 Class Introduction

Geography, Japan: A Borrowing Nation

The Yamato State and National Myths

Origins of the Samurai: The Way of the Bow and The Horse

*The Art of War*-Sun Tzu -

Conquest of the Emishi

Court Culture vs. that of the Warrior: *The Tale of Genji* (excerpt to be read in class)

#### July 7: Ascendancy of the Samurai into Political Power

#### **Film: Taira Clan Saga or New Tales of the Taira Clan (Mizoguchi)**

*The Gempei War- Taira vs. Minamoto*

**Reading:** Hiroaki Sato, *Legends of the Samurai*: Introduction, pp. 3-21, 30-64, 80-87

Turnbull; pp. 1-53

EBOOK: *A Short History of Japan*. Chapter 2

### WEEK 2: THE SAMURAI AS HERO

#### July 12<sup>th</sup>: Short quiz on map and terms

Minamoto Yoshitsune- A tragic hero

The First Shogun- Minamoto Yoritomo-1192  
Kamakura & Ashikaga Shogunates  
The Mongols and their Influence on Japanese Warfare  
The sword becomes weapon of choice  
Zen and the Samurai

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**Reading:**

Turnbull, pp. 71-93  
Hiroaki Sato, *Legends of the Samurai*: pp. 110-156  
ERESERVE: Nobility of Failure, "Minamoto Yoshitsune: Victory Thru Defeat".  
ERESERVE: DT Suzuki – Zen and the Samurai pp. 61-85  
EBOOK: A Short History, pp. 47-64.

**July 14- The Warring States Period –Sengoku Jidai**

Japan's Unifiers – Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu  
Battle of Sekigahara-1600  
Miyamoto Musashi – The Swordsman as Hero

**Film: *Samurai 1* (Inagaki)**

**Reading:** *Legends of the Samurai*, Oda Nobunaga, pp. 232-246,  
The Way of the Warrior- pp. 249-272 (includes *Book of the 5 Rings*)  
ERESERVE: *The Lone Samurai*, Chapter 4  
Turnbull, Chapters 5, 6

**WEEK 3: THE STORY OF THE 47 RONIN: JAPAN'S NATIONAL LEGEND**

**July 19 Short quiz on terms**

Tokugawa Bakufu; The 4 Classes  
The Samurai in a time of Peace

**Film: *The Loyal 47 Ronin* (Watanabe)**

**Reading:** *Legends of the Samurai*: pp. 304-338- The 47 Samurai, Eyewitness Account  
John Allyn, *The Story of the 47 Ronin*, pp. 1-141  
EBOOK, *A Short History*, pp. 64-73.

**July 21**

**Film: *The 47 Ronin* (Ichikawa)**

**Reading:**

Complete *The Story of the 47 Ronin*

**WEEK 4 THE SAMURAI AS OUTLAW: COWBOYS AND SAMURAI  
Presentation Week**

July 26: Decline of the Samurai Ideal and Encounter with the West  
**Film: *Yojimbo* –set in 1860 (Kurosawa)**

Reading: Turnbull, Chapters 7, 8  
Website: Blackships and Samurai-MIT Visualizing Cultures-  
[http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/black\\_ships\\_and\\_samurai/index.html](http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/black_ships_and_samurai/index.html)  
(easy to access in google –search on Black Ships and Samurai)  
EBOOK: *A Short History*, pp. 74-77

July 28:

**Film: The Twilight Samurai-set also in last years of Tokugawa Period  
(Yamada)**

## **WEEK 5: THE LAST SAMURAI**

*Film: The Last Samurai*

### **August 2, Presentations**

#### **Reading:**

Turnbull, Chapter 9

**EBOOK: *A Short History*, Chapter 4**

**Final Take Home Exam: Due August 6 by 1:00 PM. I will be in the classroom.**

### **Grading Policy**

**All required elements must be completed by student in order to pass the class.**

Attendance will be taken at each class. 5 percentage points are awarded for class attendance, participation in discussion, etc. You must be present when role is taken.

In class quizzes: 20 %

Journal Postings: 20%

Group Project: 20 %

Final Exam: 35 %

Class Participation 5%

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### **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. If you need to leave early, I need to know before the beginning of class.**

**Cell phones must be turned off during class. No electronic devices, including laptops are to be used during lecture period. Exceptions will only be made for students with the appropriate documentation from disability services. Laptop use will be allowed during time allotted for work on group projects.**

**Please bring the books we are studying to class with you.  
If you wish to speak in class, raise your hand.**

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## **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](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.*

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## **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.

**Email shall not be used to transmit information regarding grades.**

## **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.***