

Modern Japanese History

HST 4359.001

Dr. Joan Mortensen

MW: 11:00-12:15

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This course is a survey of Japanese history from 1600 to the present day. It is divided into three units. The first unit begins with the unification of Japan by the great samurai lord Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1600. The Tokugawa rulers inaugurated a period of almost 300 years of peace in Japan. Yet, what did Japan's elite warriors or samurai do during 300 years of peacetime? The class will look at the ethos of Bushido or the "Way of the Warrior" as it was articulated during the Tokugawa period. The Tokugawa era (1600-1868) was also the most creative epoch in the development of Japanese art and literature.

The second unit will examine the Japan's "response" to its encounter with the West in the 19th century. The approach of Commodore Perry's "Black Ships" to Japan's shores unleashed great forces of social and political change which culminated in the restoration of the Meiji emperor and the dissolution of the samurai class.

The final unit of the course discusses Japan's role in World War II, the American occupation of Japan and Japan's economic miracle in the post-war years. This unit will also explore Japan's contemporary popular culture, focusing in particular on baseball and anime.

REQUIRED READING:

James McClain, Japan: A Modern History

Jacob M. Schlesinger, Shadow Shoguns

Saburo Ienaga, The Pacific War

Yukichi Fukuzawa, Autobiography of Yukichi Fukuzawa

Kazuo Ishiguro, An Artist of the Floating World

Fumiko Enchi, The Waiting Years

Ivan Morris, The Nobility of Failure, chapters 7, 9, 10(available in bookstore printout or on reserve in library)

There will also be handouts during the course of the semester.

REQUIREMENTS:

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 stay for the whole class. If you need to leave early, I need to know before the beginning of the class.

There will be **3 tests** during the course of the semester. **I will average the top 2 grades for your test grade.** Bluebooks will be necessary for the tests. There will also be **a short map quiz. No make up tests or quizzes will be given.** There will also be **a 6-8 page research paper.** The research paper is due on April 11th. If it is class period late late, three points will be deducted from the final score. If it is more than one class period late, 6 points will be deducted from the score. **The final examination will be a take home essay.**

GRADING:

Final exam	30%	Term Paper	30%	Class participation	5%
Tests	30 %	Map quiz	5%		

Students are expected to complete all elements of the class. No incompletes will be given. Last day to withdraw from classes with with WP/WF- March 14.

Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty: Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from The University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students and the integrity of The University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced.

UNIT I: The Tokugawa Era.

Jan. 10, 12. Introduction to Class
Origins of the samurai
Reading: handouts

Jan. 17 Holiday, **No Class**

Jan. 19, 24, 26. Bushido "The Way of the Warrior", The Unification of Japan
McClain, Japan, Chapter 1, 2, pp. 76-83
Map Quiz – Jan. 26

Jan. 31, Feb. 2: The Tokugawa Period, The Closing of Japan, The Culture of the Floating World
Reading: McClain, Japan, Complete Chapter 3
Nobility of Failure, Intro., Chapter 7 (“Amakusa Shiro”)

Feb. 7,9 : Dutch learning. 19th cent. crisis in Tokugawa Bakufu.
The arrival of Commodore Perry
Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi, Chapters 1-5
Handout on Dutch learning.

Feb. 14, 16. From Tokugawa to Meiji
Fukuzawa Yukichi, Ch. 6-11
Reading: McClain, Ch. 4, 5, 6

Feb. 21, 23: The Meiji Period
Reading: McClain, Chapter 7,8
Complete Fukuzawa Yukichi (optional)
Nobility of Failure, Chapter 9
Test 1. Feb. 23

Feb. 28, March 2: The beginnings of Japanese Imperialism
Fumiko Enchi, The Waiting Years, pp. 1-79
The Pacific War: Chapters 1-4
McClain, Chapter 9

March 7- 12 Spring Break –No Class

March 14, 16 Taisho Democracy
(First Draft of Paper Due March 15th)
Japan, ch. 10, 11
Complete The Waiting Years.

March 21, 23 : Sino- Japanese War; Expansion of War into the Pacific
Reading: The Pacific War: Chapters 5-8
Japan, Chapters 12, 13, 14

Mar. 28, 30 : The Kamikaze Pilots, Hiroshima, Nagasaki, The Japanese surrender
Nobility of Failure, Chapter 10
The Pacific War: Complete

April 4,6: The American Occupation.
Reading: An Artist of the Floating World
Japan, Chapter 15
Test 2 April 6th

Apr. 11, 13: Post War Japan:
Japan: Chapter 16
Reading: Shadow Shoguns, pp. 1-81
***Research Paper Due Apr. 11**

Apr. 18, 20, 25: The Economic Miracle
Complete Shadow Shoguns,
Japan, Chapter 17

?April. 27 **Take home exam due**
Test 3 In Class

