Course description
This course is an introduction to Japanese history. We begin with the foundations of the Yamato Kingdom, look at the wave of cultural influence from ancient China and Korea, trace the rise and fall of the samurai, and examine the establishment of a modern nation-state. Along the way we explore a variety of themes, including the vectors of politics and structures of the state, connections with the outside world, economic and social organization, popular and elite cultures, and the contours of everyday life. In addition to a basic textbook, readings draw heavily on primary materials such as novels, plays, and autobiographies. From the most famous novel in world history -- *Tale of Genji* -- to dramatic first-hand accounts of World War Two, we try to see the Japanese past through the eyes of those who lived it.

Requirements
Your performance will be assessed on the following components of the course:
- six week exam (20 %): **October 13**
- 4-6 page essay (20%): **November 20**
- take-home final (30%): **December 19**
- discussion sections (30%)

Grading
- A = 93-100
- AB=88-92
- B = 85-88
- BC = 79-84
- C =72 -78
- D = 65 -71
- F = 64 or below
Readings
The following texts have been ordered for purchase at the University Book Store:
Conrad Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*
Charles Dunn, *Everyday Life in Traditional Japan*
Donald Keene, ed., *Anthology of Japanese Literature*

In addition the following readings will be available on CANVAS:
*The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi*, 104-140.
*The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature, Vol. 1:*
  *•* Edogawa Rampo, ”The Human Chair,” 365-375.
  *•* Kobayashi Takiji, ”The Fifteenth of March, 1928”, 451-462

Reading Assignments
Complete the assigned pages by Monday of the week listed (except for week 1, when you should complete the reading by Friday).

There are two types of readings assigned for this course. The first are from Conrad Schirokauer’s textbook, which emphasizes political and cultural history. These will track the chronological narrative presented in lecture. The second are literary and other primary texts. We will use these as the basis for developing basic tools to critically analyze and evaluate primary sources. While the readings are not long, the textbook is dense and the literary sources need to be read closely and critically. Prepare readings with care and attention to detail.

Week 1:  Schirokauer, 1-15.
Week 2:  Schirokauer, 16-43; Keene, 54-58.
Week 3:  Keene, 33-53; Teeuwen, 66-76.
Week 4:  Schirokauer, 45-69; Keene, 106-155.
Week 5:  Schirokauer, 70-90; Keene, 179-191, 197-212.
Week 6:  examination review, no reading.
Week 7:  Schirokauer, 91-110; Keene 258-262, 271-300.
Week 8:  John W. Hall, 39-50; E.H. Norman, 56-61; Schirokauer, 111-128.
Week 9:  Schirokauer, 129-150; Keene, 335-362, 386-409.
Week 12: Schirokauer, 174-195; Fukuzawa, 346-347, 351-353. **No discussion sections: Thanksgiving.**

Week 13: Schirokauer, 196-219; Mori Ōgai, 10-25; Natsume Sōseki, 315-333.


Week 15: *Japan at War*, 3-68.

**Class Schedule**

**Week 1:** Introduction
- September 6: introduction
- September 8: the ancient world

**Week 2:** the Yamato State
- September 11: relations with China and Korea
- September 13: the continental imprint on the Japanese state
- September 15: mythohistory & the *Kojiki*

**Week 3:** Religion and the Arts
- September 18: early religion
- September 20: Nara arts & the *Manyōshū*
- September 22: film: *Tale of Genji*

**Week 4:** The Courtly Society
- September 25: *Tale of Genji* and gendered cultures
- September 27: The Fujiwara and the rule of taste
- September 29: court politics and imperial rule

**Week 5:** The Rise of the Samurai
- October 2: the rise of the samurai
- October 4: *Heike Monogatari* and the war tales
- October 6: “tent government”

**Week 6:** Sources of Social Power
- October 9: shōen and the political-economy of rural estates
- October 11: developments in Japanese Buddhism
- October 13: **six week exam**

**Week 7:** Political Disorder and Cultural Renovation
- October 16: the Ashikaga Shogunate & the age of disorder
- October 18: understanding the medieval classics: Nō Plays as Zen Arts
- October 20: the great unifiers

**Week 8:** Centralized Feudalism
- October 23: the Tokugawa system
- October 25: Class Trip to Chazen Museum
- October 27: Rule by Status
Week 9: cultures of the samurai and the townspeople
October 30  kabuki and chōnin literature
November 1  taming the samurai
November 3  Writing Workshop

Week 10: late Tokugawa society
November 6  pilgrimage and the culture of travel
November 8  peasantry and the village economy
November 10 crumbling of the Tokugawa order

Week 11: The Meiji Restoration
November 13 aristocrats as agents of change: reading two samurai autobiographies
November 15 gunboat diplomacy & opening of Japan
November 17 the Meiji Restoration

Week 12: Reform Movements
November 20 "civilization and enlightenment" (essay due)
November 22 the Meiji Constitutional system
November 24 NO CLASS: Thanksgiving break

Week 13: Self-strengthening & the Nation
November 27 a sense of nation: reading Mori Ōgai and Natsume Sōseki
November 29 Japanese imperialism
December 1 social change in city and country

Week 14: Interwar Society
December 4 industrialization & economic growth
December 6 views of modern society: reading interwar literature
December 8 from Taisho democracy to Showa militarism

Week 15: World War Two in Asia
December 11 history and memory: reading Japan at War
December 13 Japan and China
December 15 World War Two in Asia