

Department of History  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
College of Letters and Science

## **Japan from Ancient to Modern Times History 104**

Fall 2012  
MWF 9:55-10:45  
1641 Humanities

Professor Louise Young  
O.H. Mon. 11-1 and by appt.  
4102 Humanities; Mailbox 4022  
263-1829; louiseyoung@wisc.edu

Teaching Assistant: Derek Taira  
O.H. Thurs. 11-1 and by appt.  
4271 Humanities  
dtaira@wisc.edu

### **Course description**

This course surveys Japanese history from ancient to modern times. The content of class lectures and discussion sections ranges over a variety of themes, which include 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, allowing us to explore Japanese representations of their social world.

### **Requirements**

Your performance will be assessed on the following components of the course, each counts 20% toward the final grade:

- six week exam (20 %): **October 12**
- 4-6 page essay (20%): **November 19**
- take-home final (20%): **December 18**
- participation in discussion sections (20%)
- weekly quizzes on readings, given at the beginning of Monday lectures (20%)

### **Readings**

The following texts have been ordered for purchase at the University Book Store:

Conrad Schirokauer, *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*  
Donald Keene, ed., *Anthology of Japanese Literature*

In addition, a course pack will be made available to include the following readings:

Katsu Kokichi, *Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai*, ix-xxi, 71-108.  
*The Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi*, 104-140.

John W. Hall, "Rule By Status in Tokugawa Japan," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 1.1 (1974), 39-50.

E.H. Norman, "People Under Feudalism," *Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars*, 9.2 (1977), 56-61.

*The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature*, Vol. 1:

- Mori Ōgai, "The Dancing Girl," 10-25.
- Natsume Sōseki, "Civilization of Modern Day Japan" & "My Individualism," 315-333.
- Edogawa Rampo, "The Human Chair," 365-375.
- Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, *In Praise of Shadows*, 1-42.

Haruko and Theodore Cook, *Japan at War: An Oral History*, 3-68.

### **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. To help direct your interpretation of the primary sources, there will be a short (5 minute) quiz on the reading assignment at the start of the weeks indicated below.

Week 1: Schirokauer, 1-15.

Week 2: Schirokauer, 16-43.

Week 3: Keene, 33-58 (\*Monday quiz).

Week 4: Schirokauer, 45-69; Keene, 106-155 (\*Monday quiz).

Week 5: Schirokauer, 70-90; Keene, 179-191, 197-212 (\*Monday quiz).

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, 391-409 (\*Monday quiz).

Week 10: Schirokauer, 151-173; Keene, 384-390, 410-428 (\*Monday quiz).

Week 11: *Musui's Story*, ix-xxi, 70-108, *Autobiography of Fukuzawa Yukichi*, 104-140 (\*Monday quiz).

Week 12: Schirokauer, 174-195.

#### **No discussion sections: Thanksgiving.**

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

Week 14: Schirokauer, 220-234; Edogawa Rampo, 365-375; Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, 1-42 (\*Monday quiz).

Week 15: *Japan at War*, 3-68 (\*Monday quiz).

## Class Schedule

### Week 1

September 5 introduction  
September 7 the ancient world

### Week 2

September 10 early social and political organization  
September 12 relations with Korea and China: the continental imprint  
September 14 early religion

### Week 3

September 17 understanding the Nara classics: *Kojiki* & *Manyōshū*  
September 19 film: *Tale of Genji*  
September 21 NO CLASS

### Week 4

September 24 understanding the classics: *Tale of Genji* and the “rule of taste”  
September 26 the Heian synthesis: syncretism of religious, political, and literary forms  
September 28 court politics and the imperial role

### Week 5

October 1 the rise of the samurai  
October 3 understanding the classics: *Heike Monogatari* and the war tales  
October 5 “tent government”

### Week 6

October 8 shōen and the political-economy of rural estates  
October 10 examination review  
October 12 **six week exam**

### Week 7

October 15 developments in Japanese Buddhism  
October 17 understanding the medieval classics: Nō Plays as Zen Arts  
October 19 the Ashikaga Shogunate & the age of disorder

### Week 8

October 22 the great unifiers  
October 24 the Tokugawa order  
October 26 NO CLASS

Week 9		
	October 29	understanding the Edo classics: <i>kabuki</i> and <i>chōnin</i> literature
	October 31	taming the samurai
	November 2	the castle town
Week 10		
	November 5	pilgrimage and the culture of travel
	November 7	peasantry and the village economy
	November 9	crumbling of the Tokugawa order
Week 11		
	November 12	aristocrats as agents of change: reading two samurai autobiographies
	November 14	gunboat diplomacy & opening of Japan
	November 16	the Meiji Restoration
Week 12		
	November 19	“civilization and enlightenment”
	November 21	the Meiji Constitutional system
	November 23	NO CLASS: Thanksgiving
Week 13		
	November 26	a sense of nation: reading Mori Ōgai and Natsume Sōseki
	November 28	Japanese imperialism
	November 30	industrialization & economic growth
Week 14		
	December 3	social change in city and country
	December 5	views of modern society: reading interwar literature
	December 7	from Taisho democracy to Showa militarism
Week 15		
	December 10	history and memory: reading <i>Japan at War</i>
	December 12	Japan and China
	December 14	World War Two in Asia