

**Syllabus for History/HIS 104**  
**Introduction to Japanese History**

**Instructor:** Viren Murthy  
**Meeting Times:** MWF: 9:55 to 10:45  
**Room:** Van Vleck B239  
**Office Hours:** Wednesday 10:45 to 12:00  
**Office:** Mosse Building 4108  
**Email:** vmurthy2@wisc.edu  
**TA:** Jason Morgan

**Course Description and Course Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to the political, intellectual and cultural transformations from ancient times to the present.

Students will learn about a major region of the world, one that has become increasingly prominent in recent years. Moreover, the lectures and the class assignments will allow students to analyze writings about history and construct historical arguments. In addition, students will also learn to think historically about politics and culture, not only in Japan, but in the world.

**Requirements:**

Attendance and Participation: 20%  
Take-home Exam 1 20%  
Take-home Exam 2 20%  
Final Exam (In-Class) 20%  
Paper: 20%

You are expected to attend all classes and the instructor and TA will randomly take attendance. You are also expected to respond to questions during the lecture by the instructor and participate in the discussion sections with the TA.

The two take-home exams will be primarily essay questions and you will have two days to complete the first exam and one day to complete the second exam. On these exams, I am not only testing your ability to remember what you have read and heard, but to think about the material and construct informed arguments about what you have learned. From this perspective, the exams will prepare you to write your paper.

The Final exam will not be take-home and it will be cumulative. However, the essay question on the final exam will cover only the new material (after the second exam). So the purpose of the final exam is to test your overall knowledge of the course and also give you an opportunity to construct an argument about a topic related to the most recent section of the course.

Students will also be responsible for writing a paper (5-7 pages, Times New Roman Font (12), Double-Spaced) on a topic of their choice. The topic can also be an expansion to one of the essay questions on the mid-term exam.

Students should definitely do some outside research for this paper, but the student can decide whether s/he would like to base the project on primary or secondary works. Students should attempt to construct their own thesis about the topic and defend their position with an argument. Students are encouraged to meet with the TA or the instructor as they formulate their ideas and topics.

It is a requirement that, apart from exams taken in class, all written work be submitted via a web-based program called Enhanced Insite. A special discounted bundle of the Shirokauer book and Enhanced Insite is available at the bookstore (this will be cheaper). Students can also purchase Enhanced Insite direct from the Cengage site here: <http://www.cengagebrain.com/shop/search/9781285168326>

Please use the link provided as there are many versions of Enhanced Insite and the incorrect version will not work.

Enhanced Insite contains a writing handbook which will guide students in their efforts to construct college-level arguments which meet the criteria for successful completion of the course.

Enhanced Insite will provide the organizing structure for the peer review process.

#### Required Materials:

1. *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*, Shirokauer, Lurie and Gay, Available at the bookstore

All other readings will be on the Learn@UW website.

2. Enhanced Insite. This is bundled with the book at the bookstore. It is recommended that you purchase this bundle as it will most likely be your least expensive option versus purchasing the book and Enhanced Insite separately.

Tentative Schedule (Instructor may alter dates and readings during the course of the semester) The readings specified must done before that day of class.

## **Week 1 Beginnings and Foundations**

### **Sept. 4 Introduction**

Lecture on Enhanced Insite by Jean Eske

## **PART I: Ancient and Medieval Japan**

### **Sept. 6** The Pre-history of the Japanese Archipelago

Shirokauer, 3-13

## **Week 2: Emergence of the Early State**

### **Sept. 9** Chinese and Korean Backgrounds

Shirokauer, 17-25

### **Sept. 11** Nara as Center

Shirokauer, 17-31

### **Sept. 13** Nara contd.

Shirokauer, 31-42, Discussion Wiebke Denecke, "Chinese Antiquity and Court Spectacle in Early Kanshi" in *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 30, no. 1 2004, 97-122.

## **Week 3: Heian Period**

### **Sept. 16** Rise of Fujiwara

Shirokauer, 46-62

### **Sept. 18** Visual Arts in Heian and beginning of Kamakura

Shirokauer, 62-72

### **Sept. 20** Religion in Kamakura

Shirokauer, 72-79

## **Week 4: Religion in Kamakura**

### **Sept. 23** Religion Continued

Shirokauer, 79-91

Kuroda essay, Buddhism and Society in the Medieval Estate System, *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 23 No.3/4, 1996, 287-319.

### **Sept. 25** Dogen

Dogen Selections

### **Sept. 27** Muromachi Japan

Shirokauer, 91-112

## **Week 5: The Concept of Feudalism in Japan**

### **Sept. 30** Feudalism

John Wittney Hall, "Feudalism in Japan A Reassessment", *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, 1962, Vol. 5, no. 1, 15-51.

**Oct. 2** Feudalism Continued, S.N. Eisenstadt, *Japanese Civilization, A Contemporary View*, Chapter, chapter 7, 163-175.

### **Oct. 4 Receive Take Home Exam Ancient Japan (At the end of class)**

Continue discussion of Feudalism

## **PART II: Early Modern Japan**

## **Week 6: Formation of a New Order**

### **Oct. 7 Take-Home-Exam Due**

Eisenstadt, *Japanese civilization*, chapter 9

### **Oct. 9** Modernity in Japan,

Eisenstadt, *Japanese civilization*, chapter 10.

### **Oct. 11** Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi

Shirokauer, 112-122

## **Week 7: Japan's Early Encounters with the West and Early Tokugawa**

### **Oct 14** Portuguese in East Asia

Shirokauer, 122-130

### **Oct 16** Tokugawa Shogunate

Shirokauer, 130-141

### **Oct. 18** Intellectual Currents

Shirokauer, 144-151

Tetsuo Najita, "Intellectual Change in Early Eighteenth Century Tokugawa Confucianism" *Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol 34.4, 1975, 931-944.

## **Week 8: Tokugawa Confucianism and National Learning**

### **Oct. 21** Ogyu Sorai, Ito Jinsai

Essays by Ogyu Sorai and Ito Jinsai

**Oct. 23** National Learning and Hiraga Gennai  
Reread Motoori, also read Hiraga Gennai

**Oct 25** Film

Princess Mononoke,

Read essay by Tucker, “*Anime and Historical Inversion in Miyazaki Hayao’s Princess Mononoke*” in *Japan Studies Review*, vol. 7, 2003, 65-103.

### **Week 9: Japan in the Global Capitalist World**

**Oct 28** Film contd.

**Oct 30** 2<sup>nd</sup> Late Tokugawa  
Shirokauer, 151-167

**Nov. 1** Meiji Restoration  
Shirokauer, 167-175

### **Week 10: Meiji Restoration Contd**

**Nov 4** Meiji Restoration as Passive Revolution  
Allinson and Annievas, “The Uneven and Combined Development of the Meiji Restoration”, *Capital and Class*, Vol. 34, 2010.

**Nov. 6** Intellectual and Political Developments  
Shirokauer, 175-185

**Nov. 8** Conservative and Nationalism  
Shirokauer, 185-196

### **Week 11: Fukuzawa Yukichi Contd: Civilization and Enlightenment**

**Nov. 11** Fukuzawa Yukichi  
Fukuzawa selections from *Outline of a Theory of Civilization*

**Nov. 13** Fukuzawa  
Selections

**Nov. 15** Okakura Tenshin  
Rustom Barucha, *Another Asia*, Oxford University Press, 2009, Chapter on Okakura Tenshin.

## **Week 12: Late Meiji and Imperial Japan**

**Nov. 18** Late Meiji  
Shirokauer 197-207

**Nov. 20** Taisho Period  
Shirokauer, 207-220

**Nov. 22** Film Sigeunerweisen  
Rachel Dinitto, "Translating Power into Film" *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 2004, Vol. 30.1 35-63.

## **Week 13: Japanese Popular Culture**

**Nov. 25** Discuss Dinitto Essay and Henry Smith, "The Non-liberal Roots of Taisho Democracy"

**Receive Take-Home Exam: Early Modern to Taisho Period**

**Nov. 27 Exam 2 Due**

Eisenstadt, *Japanese civilization*, chapter Seventeen

**Nov. 29**

No Class

## **PART III: Modern and Contemporary Japan**

### **Week 14: Asianism and Postwar Japan**

**Dec. 2** Militarism and War  
Shirokauer 220-232

**Turn draft of paper in for peer-review**

**Dec. 4** Okawa Shumei  
Essay on Okawa Shumei

**Dec. 6** New Japan  
Shirokauer, 232-242

### **Week 15: Asianism and Late Showa**

**Dec 8** Takeuchi Yoshim and Asianism in Postwar Japan  
Takeuchi Yoshimi, "What is Modernity?" in Takeuchi Yoshimi, *What is Modernity?*, Columbia University Press, 2005.

**Dec. 10** Showa Economy, Culture and Politics  
Shirokauer, 243-262  
Sakamoto Kyu and the problem of J-pop.

Bourdaghs, *Sayonara Nippon*, chapter on Sakamoto Kyu

**Dec 12** Early Heisei, Militarization Contemporary Japan in East Asia

Gavan McCormack, "Remilitarization", *New Left Review*, Vol 29, 2004 and Toshiya

Takahashi, "Japanese Neo-Conservatism", *Security Challenges*, Vol 6.3, 2010. 21-40.

Shirokauer, 262-267

**Turn in Final Draft of Paper**

**Week 16: Exam Week**

Final Exam: Cumulative (in class)