

Syllabus
Fall Semester, 2018

Course Name: 日本の歴史 (Premodern History)(E)
Instructor: Bruce L. Batten
Days/Times: Tuesday, 5th period (16:30-18:00) and Friday, 3rd period (13:10-14:40)
Classroom: PFC P502

Course Description:

This course, which is taught in English, provides an overview of premodern Japanese history, giving roughly equal weight to political, social, economic, and cultural developments. The lectures follow a (more or less) chronological format and cover all periods through the middle of the nineteenth century. Assignments include a class museum trip, online homework, and class discussions, in addition to the usual midterm and final examinations.

Note: This class makes use of Obirin e-Learning (Moodle). Students will need to access the course site on a regular basis in order to successfully complete assignments and pass the class.

Course Objectives:

- To achieve a basic understanding of the flow of Japanese history through the mid-nineteenth century.
 - To understand the historical background of important features of present-day Japanese society.
 - More generally, to gain an appreciation of the range of variation of human society and the dynamics of historical change.
 - Last but not least, to acquire/practice critical thinking skills.
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Schedule of Lectures:

9/18 (T) Introduction

9/21 (F) Japan's Geography

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 3-15 (Barnes, "Japan's Natural Setting")

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 11-19

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Japan

9/25 (T) Overview of Japan's History

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 16-20 (Friday, "Sorting the Past")

Totman, pp. 1-8

Recommended Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 21-53 (Piggott, "Defining 'Ancient' and 'Classical' ";
Goble, "Defining 'Medieval' "; Berry, "Defining 'Early Modern' ")

9/28 (F) The Preceramic and Jōmon Periods

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 55-65 (Aikens, "Origins of the Japanese People")

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 20-28

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Paleolithic

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jōmon_period

10/2 (T) The Yayoi and Kofun Periods

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 55-65 (Aikens, "Origins of the Japanese People"
[review])

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 28-37

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yayoi_period

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kofun_period

10/5 (F) The Origins of the Japanese State

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 66-88 (Teeuwen, "What Used to Be Called Shinto";
Barnes, "The Emergence of Political Rulership and the State in Early Japan")
Lu, pp. 3-17

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 38-53

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shintō>

10/9 (T) Discussion Session on Prehistoric / Protohistoric Japan

10/12 (F) Early Relations with the Continent

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 89-97 (Batten, "Early Japan and the Continent")

Recommended Reading:

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Kingdoms_of_Korea

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_missions_to_Imperial_China
Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emishi>
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hayato_people

10/16 (T) The Tumultuous Seventh Century

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 98-108 (Fuqua, "Centralization and State Formation in Sixth- and Seventh-Century Japan")
Lu, pp. 21-29

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 53-59
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asuka_period

10/19 (F) Nara-Heian Political History

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 111-134 (Bender, "Emperor, Aristocracy, and the *Ritsuryō* State"; Adolphson, "Oligarchy, Shared Rulership, and Power Blocs")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 29-39
Totman, pp. 60-76, 87-97
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nara_period
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heian_period

10/23 (T) Aristocratic Culture

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 135-156 (Adolphson, "Aristocratic Buddhism"; Borgen & Sorenson, "The Canons of Courtly Taste")
Lu, pp. 39-46, 71-79

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 46-71
Totman, pp. 114-139
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Buddhism

10/26 (F) No class (school festival)

10/30 (T) The Ancient Japanese Economy

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 157-177 (Verschuer, "The Provinces and the Public Economy, 800-1000"; Segal, "The *Shōen* System")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 81-101

Totman, pp. 76-86, 97-111

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shōen>

11/2 (F) Discussion on Ancient Japan and Review for Midterm

11/6 (T) Midterm Help and Questions

Note: I will come to class this day for those who have questions or need help, but I will not take attendance. So if you don't feel the need to come, don't.

Midterm examination available online 11/2 (F) 14:40 - 11/9 (F) 13:10

11/9 (F) The Warrior Class and the Kamakura Shogunate

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 178-199 (Friday, "The Dawn of the Samurai"; Goble, "The Kamakura Shogunate and the Beginnings of Warrior Power")

Lu, pp. 109-116

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 101-109

Totman, pp. 111-113

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamakura_period

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamakura>

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samurai>

11/13 (T) The Fall of the Kamakura Shogunate and the Establishment of the Muromachi Shogunate

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 203-223 (Segal, "Kamakura and the Challenges of Governance"; Goble, "Go-Daigō, Takauji, and the Muromachi Shogunate")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 147-160

Totman, pp. 161-170

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kemmu_Restoration

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanboku-chō_period

11/16 (F) Medieval Culture

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 224-232 & 254-266 (Bodiford, "Medieval Religion"; Chance, "Medieval Arts and Aesthetics")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 117-145

Totman, pp. 175-202

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_Zen

11/17 (S) Field Trip to Sagamihara City Museum

Note: This field trip will take place on a Saturday morning, not during regular class hours.

Also note: This date is tentative and subject to change depending upon the availability of museum curators.

11/20 (T) Medieval Warlords and Warfare

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 233-253 (Eason, "Warriors, Warlords, and Domains"; Conlan, "Medieval Warfare")

Lu, pp. 175-185

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 171-175, 185-186

Totman, pp. 170-174

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sengoku_period

11/23 (F) Medieval Society and Economy

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 267-298 (Tonomura, "Gender Relations in the Age of Violence"; Keirstead, "The Rise of the Peasantry"; Segal, "The Medieval Economy")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 163-170

Totman, pp. 142-160

11/27 (T) Medieval and Early Modern Foreign Relations

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 299-308 & 333-343 (Laver, "Diplomacy, Piracy, and the Space Between"; Laver, "A Whole New World (Order)")

Lu, pp. 197-201, 220-228

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 221-227

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanban_trade

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Roman_Catholicism_in_Japan

11/30 (F) Discussion Session on Medieval Japan

12/4 (T) Unification and the *Bakuhun* State

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 311-332 (Butler, "The Sixteenth-Century Reunification"; Brown, "The Political Order")
Lu, pp. 186-197

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 203-220
Totman, pp. 203-221
Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_period

12/7 (F) Early Modern Government, Politics, and Status

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 344-365 (Gainty, "The New Warriors: Samurai in Early Modern Japan"; Howell, "Urbanization, Trade, and Merchants")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 228-241
Totman, pp. 227-241

12/11 (T) Early Modern Society and Economy

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 391-412 (Walthall, "Peace Dividend: Agrarian Developments in Tokugawa Japan"; Gainty, "Family, Gender, and Sex in Early Modern Japan")

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 252-266

12/14 (F) Edo, Urban Culture, and Early Modern Kantō

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 356-377 & 391-401 (Howell, "Urbanization, Trade, and Merchants" [review]; Chance, "*Ukiyo asobi*: Urban Arts and Entertainments in Early Modern Japan: Walthall, "Peace Dividend: Agrarian Developments in Tokugawa Japan" [review])

Recommended Reading:

Totman, pp. 243-251
National Association of Japan-America Societies,
<http://www.us-japan.org/edomatsu/>

12/18 (T) Early Modern Religion, Thought, and Education

Required Reading:

Friday, *Japan Emerging*, pp. 378-390 & 413-423 (Ambros, "Religion in Early Modern Japan"; Rubinger, "Thought, Education, and Popular Literacies in Early Modern Japan")

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 243-271

Totman, pp. 266-279

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edo_Neo-Confucianism

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kokugaku>

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangaku>

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bushido>

12/21 (F) The Terminal Tokugawa Crisis, the Meiji Restoration, and Beyond

Required Reading:

Totman, pp. 279-314

Recommended Reading:

Lu, pp. 273-303

Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bakumatsu>

Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meiji_Restoration

1/11 (F) Discussion on Early Modern Japan

1/15 (T) Bonus lecture: Japanese Environmental History and Review for Final

Required Reading:

Friday, *Routledge Handbook*, pp. 23-37 (Batten, "Climate and Environment in History")

Recommended Reading:

None

1/18 (F) No class (school closed to prepare for University Examination Center Test)

1/25 (F) Final Help and Questions

Note: I will come to class this day for those who have questions or need help, but I will not take attendance. So if you don't feel the need to come, don't.

Final examination available online 1/22 (T) 18:00 – 1/29 (T) 16:30

Supplementary Activities:

Students are expected to do all of the required readings and to complete the online homework assignments before each class session. Each 90-minute class session will require approximately 3-4 hours of preparation. In addition, there is also one field trip to a local museum (tentatively scheduled for November 17).

Textbook:

- Friday, *Japan Emerging*, Karl F., ed. *Japan Emerging, : Premodern History to 1850*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2012.

Please purchase this book. I recommend that you buy the Kindle edition, which is available immediately for download. Please note that to read the Kindle edition, you will need the free Kindle Reader application, which is available for Windows, Mac OS, Android, and iOS. http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html/ref=sv_kstore_1?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771

Supplementary Reading:

- Friday, Karl F., ed. *Routledge Handbook of Premodern Japanese History*. London: Routledge, 2017.

Required portion available online at the J. F. Oberlin e-learning (Moodle) site, <http://elearning/obirin.ac.jp/moodle/>.

- Lu, David J., ed. *Japan: A Documentary History*, vol. 1. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1996.

Available on reserve at the library; required portions available online at the J. F. Oberlin e-learning (Moodle) site, <http://elearning/obirin.ac.jp/moodle/>.

- Totman, Conrad. *A History of Japan*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2005.

Available on reserve at the library; required portion available online at the J. F. Oberlin e-learning (Moodle) site, <http://elearning/obirin.ac.jp/moodle/>.

- *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*.

Available online at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page/.

Grading:

According to J. F. Oberlin's academic regulations, you must attend at least 2/3 of all class sessions to pass/receive credit for any course.

Grades for this course are based on the following:

- Class participation and homework (1/3 of grade)
- Midterm examination (1/3)

● Final examination (1/3)

A = Excellent

B = Good

C = Fair

D = Poor but passing

F = Failure

Contact with Instructor:

Office: Sūteikan Room #521, Machida Campus

Office hours: Tuesday 12:50-14:20 and Friday 9:00-10:30, or by appointment

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