This course surveys the history of Japan from the earliest records referring to societies on the archipelago to the rule of the Tokugawa Shogunate beginning in the 17th century. We will analyze primary sources in translation, as well as a variety of secondary sources in investigating social, political, and intellectual trends of Japan’s past. Students will develop skills in textual analysis, argumentative writing, effective communication, as well as a broad knowledge of pre-modern Japanese history. The course meets the General Education category of “International Perspectives”.

**Course Requirements & Policies**

**GRADING:** Your performance in this course will be evaluated on the A-E scale. The grading breakdown is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY: Students must inform the instructor prior to class if they need to miss a class. It goes without saying that “attendance” here implies attending to the course in a manner that involves more than mere physical presence: students must be alert and engaged. *A student’s final grade in the class will be penalized by a third of a grade (i.e. from B to B-) after his or her fifth unexcused absence, and an additional third of a grade with each unexcused absence thereafter.

CLASS PREPARATION: Students are expected to complete the reading assignments before coming to class. Please bring your reading assignments to class so that you can reference them during discussion. You are also expected to bring a writing utensil for in-class writing assignments.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: I request that any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. For more information, please visit Disability Resource Center. Their website is available here: http://www.albany.edu/disability/index.shtml

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Any use of work produced by another person without proper citation is plagiarism, and is a violation of the academic code of honesty. The instructor reserves the right to dismiss from the course any student that is caught cheating on an assignment or plagiarizing the work of another person. Please see the university’s policies for academic regulations for more info: http://www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/regulations.html

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT: You may not use any electronic equipment in class for any purpose, other than engaging in the course (i.e. note-taking, reading course materials, etc.). If you are expecting a call that you absolutely must take, please inform me prior to class.
REQUIRED TEXTS:


NOTE: Additional reading assignments will be distributed via blackboard.

Course Schedule

NOTE: This schedule of topics and readings may be subject to adjustments throughout the quarter.

August 29: Introduction
August 31: Modern Japan and the “History of Japan”
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chaps. 2 & 3
September 2: Prehistory
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chaps. 1 & 6

September 5: No Class (Labor Day)
September 7: Wa in Chinese Records: the idea of Yamatai & the ruler Himiko
  “Japan in the Wei Dynastic History”; “Early Shinto,” *Sources of Japanese Tradition*
September 9: Sacred Kingship
  Laura Miller, “Rebranding Himiko, the Shaman Queen of Ancient History”

September 12: Producing the Peripheries
  “The Legend of Prince Yamatotakeru” in *Japan: A Documentary History*
September 14: Prince Shotoku & The Chinese Model of Rulership
  “The Impact of Chinese Civilization” in *Japan: A Documentary History*, 21-33;
  “Prince Shotoku and his Constitution,” from *Sources of Japanese Tradition*
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chap. 10
September 16: Building Nara
  *The Demon at Agi Bridge*, 1-22
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chap. 11

September 19: Buddhism and the Nara State
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chap. 13
September 21: Heian Bureaucracy
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chap. 12
September 23: Court Politics and Marriage
  Begin reading *Hojoki*.

September 26: Peripheries of the Heian Court
  *The Demon at Agi Bridge*, 23-30; 40-60; 65-78
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chap. 15
September 28: Court Culture / Discuss Hojoki
  Friday, ed., *Japan Emerging*, chap. 14
September 30: Peer Review Session for Writing Assignment 1

October 3: No Class (Rosh Hashanah)
October 5: “Japan,” revisited
  Amino Yoshihiko, “Deconstructing .Japan”
October 7: The Shoen System  
Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 16  
10/8: Writing Assignment 1 due by 3PM. Submit your paper as an email attachment to Prof. Person named “yourlastname1.doc(x).”

October 10: Rise of the Samurai  
Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 17 – 18  
October 12: No Class (Yom Kippur)  
October 14: Civil War & the Kamakura Shogunate  
The Chronicles of Yoshitsune (excerpts)

October 17: Kamakura Rule  
Essays in Idleness (excerpts)  
October 19: Mappo & Kamakura Buddhism  
The Tannisho.  
October 21: Mongol Invasions  
“The Mongol Invasions of Japan” and “Nichiren: The Sun and the Lotus” from Sources of Japanese Tradition

October 24: Ashikaga (Muromachi) Bakufu and the Northern and Southern Court Conflicts  
The Demon at Agi Bridge, 95-119.  

October 26: Review Session for Exam

October 28: MIDTERM EXAM

October 31: Muromachi Bakufu and the Ming Empire  
Seami on the Art of Noh; Kanami, “Sotoba Komachi”

November 2: The Warring States Period  
Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 25  
“The Three Priests”

November 4: Regional Rule & Local Economies  
Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 26-28

November 7: Power and Legitimacy in Japanese Politics  

November 9: Oda Nobunaga and the idea of “Early Modern”  
Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 29 & Timeline on pg. 309 – 310

November 11: Guns & Global Catholicism  
Fabian, Ha Deus

November 14: Toyotomi Politics and the Korean Expedition  
“Unification by Toyotomi Hideyoshi,” in Lu, Japan: A Documentary History

November 16: Peer Review Session for Writing Assignment 2

November 18: Post-Sekigahara Settlement & Tokugawa Order  
Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 30

November 21: Bakufu, Hans, and the Imperial House  
Saikaku, “The Umbrella Oracle”

11/22: Writing Assignment 2 due by 3PM. Submit your paper as an email attachment to Prof. Person named “yourlastname2.doc(x).”

November 23 – November 27: Thanksgiving Break

November 28: Travel & Mobility
Reading TBA
November 30: Osaka Rice Merchants and Academies
   Keizai Roku Shui, “Addendum to ‘Thoughts On the Political Economy’ by Dazai Shundai”
   Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 33
December 2: The Dutch East India Company and Foreign Policy under Tokugawa
   Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 31

December 5: Genroku Culture & the Ako Incident
   Friday, ed., Japan Emerging, chap. 34
December 7: Confucianism in Tokugawa Japan
   Reading TBA
December 9: Review for Final Exam

December 12: Distribute Final Exam

FINAL EXAM DUE: 12/16 noon