

HIST 4910: The History of Japan

Fall 2008

Meeting Time: MWF 2:30~3:20

Location: Ray B West 214

Instructor: Pete Morris

pete.morris@usu.edu

Office Phone: 797-1190

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is a survey of the History of Japan from its beginnings to the present. We will take a look at Early Japan's cultural, social, and economical evolution. We will cover Feudal Japan and its transition towards joining the fraternity of nations. We will study WWII as a pivotal event that launched Japan into becoming a substantial presence in the world. We will finally discuss Japan today and its economical and social conditions.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

A. Midterm & Final: There will be a midterm and final exam which consist of short identifications based on both the readings and lectures. The Midterm is 20% of your grade; The Final is 30%.

B. Short Papers: There are two short papers each 4-6 pages dealing with a different topic on Japanese history as assigned. Each is worth 20% of your grade. The type of paper and is up to you with the following rules: 1) you must ok your topic with the instructor, 2) the paper must deal with a topic in a time period we have already covered in class (for example you cannot write about 'the last samurai' for the first paper) but you cannot do a topic in a time period covered in a previous paper.

C. Class Participation: This is 10% of your grade and includes a mixture of attendance, general attentiveness, minor assignments, and other general activity.

D. Grading: 95-100=A, 90-94=A-, 87-89=B+, 84-86=B, 80-83= B-, 77-79=C+, 74-76=C, 70-73=C-, 65-70=D

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- David J. Lu: *Japan: A Documentary History. Volume 1: The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period.*
- Helen Craig McCullough : *The Taiheiki: A Chronicle of Medieval Japan*
- Matsuo Basho: *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches*
- Articles and Documents: other documents will be available online and/or electronic reserves.

Section One

Origins of Japan: Mythology and Archeology

Jomon through Yayoi Periods

The Kingdom of Nu and Himiko

The Kofun Period

Section Two

Prince Shotoku and the 17 Article Constitution
Temple Building
Governing Families and the Taika Reforms
Begin reading *The Taiheiki*

Section Three

Nara and Heian
Literature, Art, and the Elite

Section Four

The Hogen and Heiji Wars
Kamakura Japan
The Minamoto Clan and the “Shogun”

Section Five

The Onin War
Azuchi Momoyama Period
Oda Nobunaga the Military Mastermind
External Challenges and Influence

Section Six

Toyotomi Hideyoshi and the Unification of Japan
The Sword Hunt
Korea
Sekigahara

Section Seven

The Edo Period
The End of the Toyotomi Line
Controlling the Samurai
Castle Building
Sankin Kotai

Midterm

Begin reading *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches*

Section Eight

The Shimabara Rebellion
Deshima: Localizing the Foreigners
Sakoku?

Section Nine

Genroku Japan
The Ukiyo, Arts, and Letters

Section Ten

Famine in the Land
Kansai Reforms
Disenchanted and Blurring Classes

Section Eleven

Internal Challenges to the Bakufu
Sonno Joi

Section Twelve

New External Challenges to the Bakufu
Unauthorized Contact with the West

Section Thirteen

Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan
Treaties with the U.S.
Dissent among the Ranks

Section Fourteen

The Bakufu Embassy to the U.S.
The Fall of the Tokugawa