

HIEA 111, Japan--Twelfth to Mid-Nineteenth Centuries

Fall, 2013

Instructor: Greg DePies

Meeting times: MWF 1:00-1:50

Location: Pepper Canyon Hall 122

Office: HSS 2302

Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00 & by appointment

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This course covers important political issues in medieval and pre-modern Japanese history. These include the medieval decentralization of state power, unification in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Tokugawa system of rule, and conflicts between rulers and ruled. It also examines long-term changes in economy, society, and culture.

In addition to the historical content, students will learn and practice:

- 1) Reading and analyzing primary sources and scholarly works effectively.
- 2) Producing interpretative arguments using a variety of evidence and argumentative reasoning.
- 3) Collaborative problem solving and oral presentation skills.

Also, each half of the course will challenge students to consider a broader methodological question about the discipline of history. The first is epistemological: what can we know about the past and how should we know it? The second is critical: what political implications follow from the various epistemological suppositions?

Course Requirements

20% Term Paper (Due date self-assigned. The prompt will be distributed on October 4.)

25% Midterm Examination (In-class essay exam Nov 4. The prompts will be distributed on Oct 28.)

45% Final Examination (Essay exam Monday, December 9, 11:30-2:29, location TBA. Prompts will be distributed on Monday, Dec. 2. It will be cumulative. For the final examination individual students may write their own prompts with the instructor's approval.)

10% Quizzes (7 unscheduled quizzes will be given throughout the quarter on the readings and the vocabulary list. They will be graded on a credit/no credit basis and are each worth 2% of the total course grade, up to a maximum of 10%. Please bring blank paper and a pen to every class.)

Reading assignments consist of a combination of primary and secondary sources and should be completed prior to the date of the class listed. Please bring the readings to class and be ready to use them for discussion.

Required Books (Available at the campus bookstore and on two-hour reserve at the library)

*Saikaku, Ihara. *The Life of an Amorous Woman*.

Articles and book excerpts are available at the UCSD library reserves page or as listed for each lecture. The password for the UCSD library reserves page for this course is: **gd111**.

Students are expected to attend each class meeting. If an absence is unavoidable, get notes from a fellow student. Students must complete the term paper and the two exams to receive a passing grade. Requests for exceptions/extensions will not be considered without written documentation of a grave emergency. Students must adhere to standards of academic integrity as defined by University policy. All students must do their own work. No collaboration outside of class time is allowed. Use of others' words or ideas requires a clear citation.

Concerning the expected workload for this course: university policy states that a four unit class requires twelve hours of work per week. This course is designed to take ten hours per week on average. Since lecture takes three hours per week, students should expect to spend around seven hours per week doing the readings, reviewing notes, and preparing the course assignments.

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability for this course need to provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), prior to eligibility for requests. Receipt of AFAs in advance is necessary for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations. OSD Academic Liaisons also need to receive current AFA letters.

Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in lecture.

-----Section A: The Medieval Era (1180-1600)-----

Week 0: Introduction

Fri, September 27: Introduction, Syllabus & Course Outline/Objectives

Week 1: The Gempei War (1180-1185)

Mon, Sept 30: Legacies of Heian society and culture. Read: *Tales of the Heike*, Volume 1, pgs 1-25, 33-38, 46-50, A.L. Sadler translation. Full text available online at <http://library.uoregon.edu/ec/e-asia/read/heike-whole.pdf>. Page numbers refer to the numbering of the digital file.

Wed, Oct 2: The Gempei War. Read: *Tales of the Heike*, Volume 7, pgs 252-278, 284-289.

Fri, Oct 4: Feudal Warrior Rule—Kamakura *jitō*, *shugo* and medieval justice. Read: *Tales of the Heike*, Volume 11, pgs 401-405, 410-422.

Study Questions: How can we best characterize the Kamakura-Kyoto fusion of older Heian institutions with new ones emerging from the Gempei civil war? What does *Tales of the Heike* tell us 1) about the events of the war, 2) about warrior values during the medieval era more broadly?

Week 2: The Kamakura (Minamoto) Era (1185-1333)

Mon, Oct 7: Medieval demographics—disease, famine, war. Read: Farris, William. “New Problems, Same Result: Mortality in Early Medieval Japan, 1150-1280,” pgs 26-66.

Wed, Oct 9: Medieval Buddhism—Pure Land, Nichiren, Zen. Read: *The Lotus Sutra*, chapters 2 & 25, pgs 23-46, 295-302 pay particular attention to pages 37-40. Full text available online at www.bdkamerica.org/digital/dbet_t0262_lotussutra_2007.pdf.

Fri, Oct 11: The Mongol invasions (1274 & 1281) and foreign relations. Read: Ishii, Susumu. “The Mongol Invasions and the Kamakura Bakufu,” pgs 131-148.

Study Questions: What was life like for ordinary people in Medieval Japan? How did they use Buddhism to make meaning out of everyday experiences? How can we best characterize Japan's place in the world system of the 13th century?

Week 3: The Muromachi (Ashikaga) Era (1333-1600)

Mon, Oct 14: Issues of legitimacy: warrior rebellion, dual emperors. Read: Wintersteen, Prescott. "The Early Muromachi Bakufu in Kyoto," pgs 201-220.

Wed, Oct 16: Travel and trade. Read: Yamamura, Kozo. "The Growth of Commerce in Medieval Japan," pgs 344-395.

Fri, Oct 18: *Ikki*. Read: Davis, David. "Ikki in Late Medieval Japan," pgs 221-247.

Study Questions: How did Ashikaga rule further decentralize state power? What was the economy like during this period? How did *ikki* re-imagine social and political structures?

Week 4: Medieval Culture and Society

Mon, Oct 21: Performing and visual arts. Read: Varley, Paul. "Cultural Life of the Warrior Elite in the Fourteenth Century," pgs 192-208.

Wed, Oct 23: Peasants and agriculture. Read: Troost, Kristina. "Peasants, Elites, and Villages in the Fourteenth Century," pgs 91-109.

Fri, Oct 25: Family life. Read: Tabata, Yasuko. "Women's Work and Status in the Changing Medieval Economy" pgs 99-118.

Study Questions: What were the performing and visual arts of the medieval era and what were their political implications? What was agricultural life like and how did people understand gender?

Week 5: Sengoku—The Civil War Era (1467-1600)

Mon, Oct 28: The Onin War. Read: Berry, Mary. "Introduction," "Prelude," "The Culture of Lawlessness," pgs xv-34. Available to UC students for free in Roger at <http://publishing.cdlib.org/ucpressebooks/view?docId=ft0n39n6gg&brand=ucpress>

Wed, Oct 30: *Gekokujō*. Read: Berry, Mary. "Popular Insurrection," pgs 134-170.

Fri, Nov 1: Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, Tokugawa Ieyasu. Read: Berry, Mary. "Neighborhood: The Reconfiguration of Attachment," pgs 210-241.

Study Questions: How can we understand the Sengoku era as a social historical event? How did ordinary people carry out a thoroughgoing transformation of the structures of authority at the village, neighborhood, and regional levels?

-----Section B: The Edo (Tokugawa) Era (1600-1867)-----

Week 6: The Edo Bakufu

Mon, Nov 4: **Midterm Exam**

Wed, Nov 6: Institutions of rule: Confucianism, *sankin kotai*, hostages, spies. Read: Totman, Conrad. "The Politics of Order," pgs 105-139. Extra credit reading: Scheiner, Irwin. "Benevolent Lords and Honorable Peasants," pgs 39-62.

Fri, Nov 8: Foreign relations & Dutch Studies (*Rangaku*). Read: Walker, Brett. "The Consolidation of the Early Modern State in the North," pgs 17-47.

Study Questions: How did the bakufu try to maintain peace among *daimyo*? What institutions bolstered Tokugawa power and authority?

Week 7: Early Modern Economy and Society

Mon, Nov 11: Veterans Day, no class.

Wed, Nov 13: Conditions for industrialization? Read: Smith, Thomas. "Premodern Economic Growth," pgs 15-39.

Fri, Nov 15: Topic and reading TBD

Study Questions: To what extent did economic change during the Tokugawa era prepare the groundwork for later industrialization? How does the demographics of the Edo period relate to scholars' arguments about the importance of premodern economic growth?

Week 8: Edo Life

Mon, Nov 18: Ukiyo culture. Read: Saikaku, Ihara. *The Life of an Amorous Woman*, pgs 55-118.

Wed, Nov 20: Education & childhood. Read: Saikaku, Ihara. *The Life of an Amorous Woman*, pgs 121-188.

Fri, Nov 22: Urban government. Read: Saikaku, Ihara. *The Life of an Amorous Woman*, pgs 188-263.

Study Questions: What gendered attributes did townspeople idealize? What kinds of institutions educated children during the Edo period? How did the state manage law enforcement, sanitation, and the environment?

Week 9: "Japan"

Mon, Nov 25: National Learning (*kokugaku*), the Mito School, Shinto. Read: Harootunian, Harry. "Ideology as Conflict," pgs 25-61.

Wed, Nov 27: Thanksgiving break, no class.

Fri, Nov 29: Thanksgiving break, no class.

Study Questions: How did new ideologies promote thinking about Japan as a singular geographic and demographic unit?

Week 10: Fear and Opportunity in the 19th Century

Mon, Dec 2: Outsiders. Read: Totman, Conrad. "The Threat from the North" and "The Threat from the South," pgs 482-503.

Wed, Dec 4: Peasant revolts and samurai impoverishment. Read: Furushima, Toshio "The Village and Agriculture during the Edo Period," pgs 478-518.

Fri, Dec 6: Wrap Up and Review.

Study Questions: What domestic and international events challenged *bakufu* rule in the late 18th and early 19th centuries?

Vocabulary List

Bakufu: “Tent government.” Warrior administrative institutions of rule.

Biwa: Lute.

Bushi: Military aristocracy, warrior estate, samurai.

Daimyo: Regional military lord.

Gekokujō: The overthrow of a superior by an inferior. The political upheaval of the Sengoku period.

Gokenin: A retainer or vassal of a lord.

Ikki: A league of warriors or commoners and/or an uprising by such a league.

Jitō: Military estate steward appointed by the Kamakura bakufu. The most important local official of the Kamakura period.

Nembutsu: Invocation of the sacred name of Amida Buddha to ensure rebirth in the Pure Land.

Noh: A form of musical dance drama from the fourteenth century with plots drawn from legend, history, literature and contemporary events.

Rōnin: “Floating men.” Masterless samurai without stipends.

Shogun: “Barbarian-subduing general.” A title bestowed by the emperor. Under Minamoto rule the shogun became an independent military ruler of Japan.

Shōen: Estates created through the privatization of public land from the 8th to 12th centuries. Created through land reclamation, imperial gifts, and appropriation by high-ranked officials.

Shugo: Provincial constable, military governor.

Ukiyo-e: “Pictures of the floating world.” A genre of art from the mid to late Tokugawa period.

Za: A trade or craft guild from the 11th century.

Source Citations

Berry, Mary Elizabeth. “Introduction,” “Prelude,” “The Culture of Lawlessness,” “Popular Insurrection,” and “Neighborhood: The Reconfiguration of Attachment.” In *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto*. xv-34, 134-170, 210-241. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1994.

Davis, David. “Ikki in Late Medieval Japan.” In *Medieval Japan: Essays in Institutional History*. Edited by John W. Hall and Jeffrey P. Mass. 221-247. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1974.

Farris, William. “New Problems, Same Result: Mortality in Early Medieval Japan, 1150-1280.” In *Japan's Medieval Population: Famine, Fertility and Warfare in a Transformational Age*. 26-66. Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii, 2006.

Furushima, Toshio “The Village and Agriculture during the Edo Period.” In *The Cambridge History of Japan, Volume 4, Early Modern Japan*. Edited by John Whitney Hall. 478-518. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990.

Harootunian, Harry. “Ideology as Conflict.” In *Conflict in Modern Japanese History: The Neglected Tradition*. Edited by Tetsuo Najita and J. Victor Koschmann. 25-61. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1982.

Ishii, Susumu. “The Mongol Invasions and the Kamakura Bakufu.” In *The Cambridge History of Japan, Volume 3, Medieval Japan*. Edited by Kozo Yamamura. 131-148. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990.

The Lotus Sutra. Translated by Tsugunari Kubo and Akira Yuyama. Numata Center for Buddhist Translation and Research. www.bdkamerica.org/digital/dbet_t0262_lotussutra_2007.pdf

- Saikaku, Ihara. *The Life of an Amorous Woman and Other Writings*. Edited and translated by Ivan Morris. New Directions Books, 1963.
- Scheiner, Irwin. "Benevolent Lords and Honorable Peasants." In *Japanese Thought in the Tokugawa Period, 1600-1868*. Edited by Tetsuo Najita and Irwin Scheiner. 39-62. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press, 1978.
- Smith, Thomas. "Premodern Economic Growth." In *Native Sources of Japanese Industrialization, 1750-1920*. 15-39. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1988.
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- Tales of the Heike*. Translated by A.L. Sadler. <http://library.uoregon.edu/ec/e-asia/read/heike-whole.pdf>
- Totman, Conrad. "The Politics of Order." In *Early Modern Japan*. 105-139. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1993.
- . "The Threat from the North" and "The Threat from the South." In *Early Modern Japan*. 482-503. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press, 1993.
- Troost, Kristina. "Peasants, Elites, and Villages in the Fourteenth Century." In *The Origins of Japan's Medieval World: Courtiers, Clerics, Warriors and Peasants in the Fourteenth Century*. Edited by Jeffrey P. Mass. 91-109. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1997.
- Varley, Paul. "Cultural Life of the Warrior Elite in the Fourteenth Century." In *The Origins of Japan's Medieval World: Courtiers, Clerics, Warriors and Peasants in the Fourteenth Century*. Edited by Jeffrey P. Mass. 192-208. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1997.
- Walker, Brett. "The Consolidation of the Early Modern State in the North." In *The Conquest of Ainu Lands: Ecology and Culture in Japanese Expansion, 1590-1800*. 17-47. Berkeley, Univ. of California Press, 2001.
- Wintersteen, Prescott. "The Early Muromachi Bakufu in Kyoto." In *Medieval Japan: Essays in Institutional History*. Edited by John W. Hall and Jeffrey P. Mass. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press, 1974.
- Yamamura, Kozo. "The Growth of Commerce in Medieval Japan." In *The Cambridge History of Japan, Volume 3, Medieval Japan*. Edited by Kozo Yamamura. 344-395. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990.