

## Kodai to Gendai

**Section 1**

Instructor/Title	Ghosh Dastidar, Debasrita
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**【Course Outline / Description】**

This course examines the scope of Japanese Society and Culture from ancient to modern times. Students are expected to recognize how the rich history of Japan played a vital role in shaping its present, through the study of various works of literature. Lessons will focus on aspects of ancient to post war period of globalization and how they influenced literary trends. Students are encouraged to reflect and develop their own perspectives on social and cultural dynamics that are significant in the transition of Japanese history. Basic knowledge of Japanese society and culture would be an advantage but not a requirement for the course.

Each module will be structured around a social or cultural topic. Active student engagement and participation is encouraged for critical analysis and understanding of each module. Students will involve in pair or group work for in-class discussions and presentations. Each week there will be one out-of-class suggested reading. Students work individually on reflective writing exercises and essays to develop their analytical skills based on the reading assignment.

**Section 2****【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】**

Students should be able to;

- ✓ Learn the major events of Japanese history.
- ✓ Describe how Japanese history develops with time.
- ✓ Identify the key features of each period in Japanese history.
- ✓ Recognize the socio-political background of each period and how it affects individuals and subsequently influence literary works.
- ✓ Summarize own opinion about the relation between Japanese history.

**Section 3****【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】****Course schedule**

Week	Session	Topic
1	1	Orientation
	2	Early Japan: Mythology Out-of-class reading: Umi sachi Yama sachi
2	3	Nara Period: Influences from oriental culture

		Out-of-class reading: Kaguyahime
	4	Heian Period: Development of native culture Out-of-class reading: Pillow Book
3	5	Feudal Japan: Kamakura Period Out-of-class reading: Heike Monogatari
	6	Feudal Japan: Battle of Sekigahara Out-of-class reading: Ihara saikaku
4	7	Isolation/Sakoku: Edo Period Out-of-class reading: Beauty Contest
	8	End of Sakoku/ Bakumatsu Out-of-class reading: Mid-term preparation
5	9	Preparatory session: Mid-term Presentation
	10	Mid-term Presentation I Out-of-class activity: Presentation summary submission
6	11	Mid-term Presentation II Out-of-class activity: Presentation feedback submission
	12	Modernization: Meiji period Out-of-class reading: Kokoro
7	13	Modernization: Meiji Constitution Out-of-class reading: Kokoro
	14	Modernization: Taisho period Out-of-class reading: Rashomon
8	15	Modernization: Roaring 20's Out-of-class reading: Pomegranate
	16	Rise of Militarism: Nanking Massacre Out-of-class reading: Mishima Yukio Kinkakuji
9	17	Rise of Militarism: WWII Out-of-class reading: Kinkakuji
	18	Rise of Militarism: Aftermath Out-of-class reading :Abe Kobo: Suna no Onna
10	19	New Japan: Occupation Out-of-class reading: Suna no Onna
	20	Review of Militarism Out-of-class reading: Tanizaki Junichiro:Naomi
11	21	Post war Development I Out-of-class reading: Naomi
	22	Post war Development II Out-of-class reading: Tatoo
12	23	Post war society and literature: Out-of-class reading: Tatoo
	24	Post war society and literature: Out-of-class reading: Oe Kenzaburo :Kojin teki na taiken
13	25	Post war society and literature: Oe Kenzaburo Out-of-class reading: Kojin teki na taiken

	26	Post war society and literature: Murakami Haruki Out-of-class reading: Norwegian wood
14	27	Preparatory session: Final Presentation Out-of-class activity: Presentation Preparation
	28	Final Presentation I Out-of-class activity: Presentation Summary submission
15	29	Final Presentation II Out-of-class activity: Presentation feedback submission
	30	Course Review and Feedback

**【Textbooks/Reading Materials】**  
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Gordon, Andrew *A modern history of Japan*, Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 26, 2013)

**Section 4**

**【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】**

Assessment:

Final Exam	20%	(Presentation & short essay)
Midterm Exam	20%	(Presentation & short essay)
Attendance	20%	(Journal and class participation)
Writing assignments	40%	(on weekly reading assignments) (out-of-class)

Mid-term & Final presentations will be assessed as below (20points each);

Content: Presentation shows valuable material and relevance of topic.

Background research: Evidence of Literature review, research methods and analysis of findings.

Organization Well organized and easy to follow slides.

Delivery: Speak clearly, Tone and clarity of words, use of vocabulary,

Interaction: Engaged the audience. Body language and eye contact

**Section 5**

**【Additional Information】**

Study packets for the course will be provided on the day of Orientation.