

Japanese History

Japan's Search for Identity in the Wider World

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

This course provides a survey of the political, economic, social, intellectual, and foreign policy aspects of Japanese history from 600 AD to the economic miracle of the postwar period. Particular focus is placed on Japan's attempts to establish a central government prior to 1600, as well as Japan's quest for national identity and security in the 20th century. Key topics include how geography shaped Japan's history, the influence of Chinese culture on early Japanese history, the legacy of feudalism, the Meiji Restoration, the road to the Pacific War and Japan's defeat, and Japan's post-war economic growth. Understanding these aspects of Japan's history will help students understand contemporary Japanese society.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

At the end of this course, students will 1) identify the key economic, political, social, ideological and foreign policy aspects of key time periods in Japan's pre-modern and modern history; and 2) understand the domestic and foreign factors/forces that have shaped Japan's history and identity.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Day/Class	Topics for Class	Assignment
Class 1	Overview of class; discipline of history; geography of Japan	Review syllabus
Class 2	Geography quiz Yamato Period	Study for geography quiz Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-10) Duus, Ch. 2 (pp. 13-20)
Class 3	Chinese Influences/Nara Period	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 1 (pp. 10-27) Duus, Ch. 2 (pp. 20-25)
Class 4	Heian Period/Estate System	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 1 (pp. 27-38) Duus, Ch. 2 (pp. 25-33)
Class 5	Forces shaping early Japanese history	Written Assignment #1
Class 6	Feudalism/Rise of Taira and Minamoto clans	Duus, Ch. 1 (pp. 1-12) Duus, Ch. 3 (pp. 34-45) Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 2 (pp. 39-43)
Class 7	Kamakura Period	Duus, Ch. 3 (pp. 45-52)

		Duus, Ch. 4 (pp. 53-57) Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 2 (pp. 43-57)
Class 8	Ashikaga Period/Warring States Period	Duus, Ch. 4 (pp. 57-72) Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 2 (pp. 57-72)
Class 9	Political Unification/Tokugawa Shogunate	Duus, Ch. 5 (pp. 73-79) Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 3 (pp. 73-91) Duus, Ch. 5 (pp. 79-84)
Class 10	Tokugawa Period – economics/social/ideological/political changes	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 3 (pp. 91-115) Duus, Ch. 5 (pp. 85-95)
Class 11	Discussion of who gained/lost from changes in the Tokugawa Period	Written Assignment #2
Class 12	Kaikoku Satsuma/Choshu	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 4 (pp. 116-133)
Class 13	Analysis of causes of Meiji Restoration	Wray/Conroy, (pp. 56-78) Written Assignment #3
Class 14	Review for midterm	Assignment on key people and events in pre-modern Japan
Class 15	Midterm Exam	Prepare for Midterm Exam
Class 16	Civilization and Enlightenment	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 4 (pp. 133-144) Duus, Ch. 5 and Epilogue (pp. 95-102)
Class 17	Meiji Period – economic/social/intellectual	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 5 (pp. 145-166)
Class 18	Meiji Period – politics and foreign policy	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 5 (pp. 166-189)
Class 19	Meiji Foreign Policy and Russo-Japanese War	Iriye, Ch. 1 and 2 (pp. 1-22) Wray/Conroy, (pp. 153-157)
Class 20	1920s economy/social/intellectual	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 6 (pp. 190-223)
Class 21	1920s politics	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 7 (pp. 224-244)
Class 22	WWI and 1920s foreign policy	Iriye, Ch. 4 and 5 (pp. 36-62)
Class 23	Discussion of Taisho Democracy	Written Assignment #4
Class 24	1930s Militarism	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 7 (pp. 245-257) Iriye, Ch. 6 (pp. 63-72)

Class 25	China War/1939-1941	Iriye, Ch. 7 (pp. 73-87) Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 7 (pp. 257-267)
Class 26	Pearl Harbor and Pacific War	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 8 (pp. 268-277) Additional readings on Pearl Harbor
Class 27	Discussion of Japan's decision to go to war	Wray/Conroy, (pp. 293-307, 316-322) Written Assignment #5
Class 28	Allied Occupation and Postwar Economic Miracle	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 8 (pp. 277-292)
Class 29	1960s and 1970s social/politics/foreign policy	Reischauer/Craig, Ch. 8 (pp. 293-320)
Class 30	Review for Final exam	Assignment on key people and events in modern Japan

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Reischauer, Edwin O. and Albert M. Craig, *Japan, Tradition & Transformation*, Revised Edition, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1989.

Duus, Peter, *Feudalism in Japan*, Third Edition. McGraw-Hill, 1993.

Selected readings from *Japan Examined*, edited by Wray and Conroy and *Japan and the Wider World* by Akira Iriye.

All texts/course materials will be provided by the professor.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

25% =Preparation of Reading assignments and Class participation

20% = Written assignments

25% = Midterm Exam

30% = Final Exam

Since class participation is a significant part of the student's contribution to the course and to his/her grade, regular attendance is expected. Being absent from or late to class will lower your class participation grade. Students may discuss their class participation grade with the professor at any time throughout the term.

Exams and written assignments will be graded and returned to students in a timely manner.