

2024 Spring Semester

The Japanese Warrior: History, Religion, and Philosophy

Section 1

Instructor	Dr. John A. Shultz, Associate Professor
Office/Building	6407 (ICC)
Office Hours	Monday 1:15-2:25/Tuesday 10:45-12:15

【Course Outline / Description】

Visions of the Japanese warrior in his many forms loom largely through the history of East Asia and through popular sentiments of what being a warrior is all about. Martial arts and the profession of soldiery are described in Japan as a “path” or “way.” This implies that such disciplines are not reducible to technical skills but represent an ideology. Indeed, a continual refrain from the distant past to the present is that the warrior's spirit lies at the heart of Japanese people and culture.

In this course, we seek to examine the character of the Japanese warrior throughout history to determine what constitutes the worldview of Japanese combatants and if such worldviews have maintained any consistency over time. More specifically, we will look at archetypical warriors using prototypical weapons in exemplary battles through famous literature, films, and historical accounts.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

- to articulate the various ideologies and worldviews pertaining to the Japanese warrior
- to demonstrate a working understanding of Japanese history as it pertains to warriors
- to be able to explain a complex topic by employing non-print media, such as film

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

1.) Course Introduction

HOMEWORK: Review course syllabus.

2.) Yamato the Brave

READING: *Kojiki* p. 232-252

3.) The Early Japanese Military: Crossbows and Confucianism

READING: From Samurai, Warfare, and the State by Karl Friday p.68-85

4.) The Revolt of Taira Masakado

READING: From *Konjaku Monogatari* “How Taira M. Revolted and was Killed” p.384-389; *Shomonki* (*The Tale of Masakado*) p. 129-140

5.) Introduction to the *Tale of Heike*;

READING: by McCullough p.1-11

6.) Heike: The Battle of Uji Bridge and *Sōhei*

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READING: by McCullough p.152-155; Japanese Warrior Monks p. 1-41

7.) *Sōhei*: Myth and Reality; Polearms

READING: Japanese Warrior Monks p. 41-58; Japanese Polearms p. 17-84

QUIZ: Recitation of the First Lines of the *Heike*

8.) Heike: The Death of Yoshinaka

READING: by McCullough p.286.3-293.9

9.) *Heike*: Yoshitsune and Benkei

READING: by McCullough p.302.6-317

10.) *Heike*: The Battle of Dannoura

READING: by McCullough p. 358-380

11.) *Hōganbiiki*: Death of Yoshitsune; and *Seppuku*

READING: by Rankin p.41.3-45.6

12.) Film "*The Seven Samurai*"

HOMEWORK: Complete review of *Heike* materials.

13.) Class Discussion "The Seven Samurai"

HOMEWORK: Prepare your discussion questions.

14.) Review Session for Exam #1

HOMEWORK: Prepare essays and questions for the examination.

15.) Short lecture, Exam #1

HOMEWORK: Prepare essays and questions for the examination.

16.) Work Session for Practicum: Themes

HOMEWORK: Complete the written homework assignments for the project

17.) Heroes of the Battle of Osaka Castle

READING: "Winter of Discontent: The Siege of Osaka Castle" by Niderost p.1-4

18.) The Two-swords Philosophy of Miyamoto Musashi

READING: The Book of Five Rings p.15-71; p. 178-181 (Bilingual Reading!)

19.) Work Session for Practicum: Techniques

HOMEWORK: Complete the written homework assignments for the project

20.) Ninja! Facts and Fictions

READING: From The True Path of the Ninja p. 15-56; p. 65-68

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21.) Ninja II: Infiltration, Intelligence, and Magic

READING: From The True Path of the Ninja p. 78- 80; p.107-119; p. 122-125; p. 159-167

22.) Practicum Presentations: Viewing

HOMEWORK: ***ALL PROJECTS DUE****

23.) Practicum Presentations II: Discussion

HOMEWORK: Prepare Discussion Question

24.) The “*Bushidō Bible*”: *The Hagakure*

READING: From The Hagakure p. 1-10

25.) The Mighty Samurai Sword

READING: "The Samurai Sword" p. 1-15

26.) Introduction to the Pacific War

READING: U.S. Army Field Manual “The Jap Soldier” p. 2-124 (many pictures!)

27.) Soldier's Hell: The Experience of New Guinea

READING: “The Green Desert of New Guinea” by Ogawa Masatsugu p. 267-276

28.) Zero Ace Sakai Saburo

READING: “Zero Ace” by Sakai p. 135-145.4

29.) Exam #2 Review

HOMEWORK: Prepare essays and questions for the examination.

30.) Short lecture, Exam #2

HOMEWORK: Prepare essays and questions for the examination.

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

*All course reading materials will be provided by the professor or will be available online

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Exam #1.	20%
Exam #2	20%
Creative Project	25%
Quizzes/Homework	15%
Participation	20%

Section 5

【Additional Information】