

Winter 2006 • ASIAN 152 / HIST 152
Introduction to Japanese Civilization

Lec: M•W 1-2:30 pm
MLB Lecture Room 1

Rec: F 9-10am 3520 Frieze
F 10-11am 3518 Frieze
F 11am-12pm 3508 Frieze

Instructor: Jeremy Robinson
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GSI: Matty Wegehaupt
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Japan is often characterized as a country which is simultaneously ultra-modern and extremely traditional. Over the course of Japan's history, the country has undergone many upheavals in which contact with foreign cultures and mass adoption of foreign elements has led to a deliberate rethinking of the nature of Japanese culture, yet ancient traditions and beliefs still retain power in the Japan of today. This class will examine the course of Japan's culture from its prehistory to the present day through its history, religion, literature, theater, and art. Through attention to both cultural continuity and cultural change, we will attempt to gain an understanding of Japan and its ability to constantly recreate itself for new circumstances while retaining elements of its earlier self. At the same time, we will look for change within seeming continuity and continuity that underlies times of great change, in order to question the notions of national identity, unchanging tradition, and adaptive brilliance which have characterized stereotypes of Japan, both by the West and by the Japanese themselves.

This course makes extensive use of the University of Michigan's online CTools (formerly CourseTools), both to distribute readings and as a forum for submitting and responding to reaction papers, so becoming comfortable using CTools on a daily basis is vital to your success in this course. You can access CTools using any web browser at <http://ctools.umich.edu>, click on the login button in the upper right hand corner, and login using your University of Michigan unickname and password. You should see a set of tabs for the courses in which you are enrolled, including one for the lecture section and one for your recitation section of this course. The lecture section can be accessed by students in all recitation sections and will be used to distribute readings and videos, while the recitation sections will be used for online discussion forums for students in each individual recitation. The interface is fairly straightforward, but if you have no experience using the system or are uncomfortable with computers, let the instructor or GSI know immediately and we can help you get started. Sometime before your second recitation section, you should submit a self-introduction as your first posting to the discussion groups. Let me and your classmates know a little bit about yourself and your past experiences, why you are taking this course, and what you hope to get out of the class.

Evaluation will be on the basis of class attendance and participation, online reaction papers and responses, a midterm exam, and a final exam. You can think of the class as divided into two half-terms, with half of your requirements fulfilled in each half and an exam at the end of each one.

Attendance and Participation (In Recitation)		10%
Six Online Reaction Papers	6 x 5% =	30%
Ten Online Responses	10 x 2% =	20%
Midterm Exam		20%
Final Exam		20%

Most important, both to your grade and to the success of the class, is keeping up on the readings, being prepared to discuss them in recitation, and regularly posting online. Participation in the online forums makes up fully half of your grade; if you keep up on them it is very difficult to fail, but if you don't keep up it is very difficult to do well. Over the course of the semester you will be required to post at least six

reaction papers and at least ten online responses to the CTools online discussion group. A reaction paper should be approximately 1.5 to 2 pages long (if it were printed out, double-spaced) and should articulate your reaction to that day's readings. It does not need to be a formal argumentative essay, but it should be more substantive than mere summary. It is intended to present your reaction to the material in light of your own experience and the issues previously discussed in class, and should show an active engagement with the text. Because they are intended to reflect your reaction to the readings prior to hearing the instructor lecture on them, reaction papers must be posted online prior to lecture class. Three of these papers are required in each half of the semester and you may choose any of the readings to which you wish to respond, but you may not write more than one in any given week. Most weeks, there will also be a video to watch (available via the lecture section in CTools) before your Friday recitation, and you may also write reaction papers on these videos. If you choose to do this, you must post your reaction paper prior to 10pm on Thursday, the night before your recitation, in order to give other students time to read and respond to it. Other students' reaction papers for each week should be considered the required readings for your recitation section, so make a point of reading all reaction papers, and perhaps writing an online response to them, before coming to class on Friday. The online responses are less formal than the reaction papers and there is no set length, but they should show a willingness to engage with other students' ideas rather than relying only on one's own interpretation of the text. A minimum of five of these responses are required in each half of the semester, but you are encouraged to write more. In order to be sure your reactions and responses are credited properly, begin the title of each post with "Reaction #" or "Response #." Friday recitation sections will use the online discussions as a starting point for further discussion of the issues raised that week, and responses posted after the recitation will not count toward your required minimum total, though you are welcome to continue online discussion if you wish.

There are three required texts for this course, available at *Shaman Drum Bookshop*:

Conrad Schirokauer, et al., <i>A Brief History of Japanese Civilization</i> (2 nd ed.)	BHJC
William deBary, et al., <i>Sources of Japanese Tradition vol. 1</i> (2 nd ed.)	SJT
Donald Keene, ed., <i>Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology</i>	MJL

Additional readings will be made available in pdf format under "Resources" in the lecture section of CTools (and marked "online" on the syllabus). Frequently used additional readings are listed below, and the books are available in Course Reserves at the library (with the exception of the 2nd volume of *Sources of Japanese Tradition*.) Given the number of students and the limitations of time, however, students are encouraged to use the online versions of the texts rather than relying on library reserves.

Helen McCullough, <i>Classical Japanese Prose</i>	CJP
Stephen D. Carter, <i>Traditional Japanese Poetry</i>	TJP
William deBary, et al., <i>Sources of Japanese Tradition vol. 2</i> (2 nd ed.)	SJT2
Karen Brazell, ed. <i>Traditional Japanese Theater</i>	TJT
Haruo Shirane, ed. <i>Early Modern Japanese Literature</i>	EMJL

It should go without saying that plagiarism is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. It is assumed that all work submitted by students is their own and appropriate acknowledgement of material from outside sources must be observed in all written assignments.

This course fulfills Humanities Distribution.

Course Schedule

Week One

Friday, January 6 Syllabus & Introduction

Week Two

Monday, January 9 Prehistoric and Ancient Japan

Readings: *BHJC* pp. 3-26
 SJT pp. 3-23

Wednesday, January 11 The Nara Period

Readings: *BHJC* pp. 26-46
 SJT pp. 40-42, 50-59, 75-83

Friday, January 13 Recitation

Assignment: • Introduce yourself in CTools discussion groups •
Video: No video this week

Week Three

Monday, January 16 Martin Luther King Jr. Day – No Class

Wednesday, January 18 The *Man'yōshū*

Readings: *TJP* pp. 17-71 (online)

Friday, January 20 Recitation

Video: *Shintō: nature, gods and man* (online)

Week Four

Monday, January 23 The Heian Period

Readings: *BHJC* pp. 49-61
 SJT pp. 123-137, 140, 150-157, 165-170

Wednesday, January 25 Heian Art and Literature

Readings: *BHJC* pp. 61-77
 CJP pp. 38-55, 70-75, 102-109 (online)

Friday, January 27 Recitation

Video: *Japanese History and Literature, vol. 1* (online)

Week Five

Monday, January 30 Heian Literature

Readings: *SJT* pp. 197-204
 Tale of Genji (Tyler trans.), pp. 1-18 (online)
 CJP pp. 156-179 (online)

Wednesday, February 1 The Kamakura Period
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 79-99
 SJT pp. 205-222, 292-295, 302-305

Friday, February 3 Recitation
Video: *The Tale of Genji* animated film (online)

Week Six

Monday, February 6 Kamakura Literature
Readings: *SJT* pp. 364-369, 387-388
 TJP pp. 145-167 (online)
 CJP pp. 377-392 (online)

Wednesday, February 8 Military Tales
Readings: *SJT* pp. 265-291
 Tale of Heike (McCullough trans.), episodes: 4.11, 5.7, 6.7, 7.8,
 7.16, 9.4, 11.4, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9 (online)

Friday, February 10 Recitation
Video: “Hôichi the Earless” from *Kwaidan* (online)

Week Seven

Monday, February 13 The Muromachi Period
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 101-119
 SJT pp. 306-313, 319-325, 388-398

Wednesday, February 15 *Renga* and *Nô*
Readings: *SJT* pp. 369-383
 TJP pp. 275-279, 303-309 (online)
 TJT pp. 115-157 (online)

Friday, February 17 Recitation
Video: *The Tradition of Performing Arts in Japan* (online)

Week Eight

Monday, February 20 The Unifiers
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 123-139
 SJT pp. 433-467

Wednesday, February 22 Midterm Exam – Bring a Blue Book

Friday, February 24 No Recitation this Week

••• Spring Break – No Classes 2/25 – 3/5 •••

Week Nine

Monday, March 6 The Tokugawa Era
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 143-164
 SJT2 pp. 1-14, 29-34, 49-52, 57-67, 186-194 (online)

Wednesday, March 8 Genroku Culture – *kabuki* and *bunraku*
Readings: *TJT* pp. 303-313 (online)
 SJT2 pp. 331-338 (online)
 EMJL pp. 233-242, 313-347 (online)

Friday, March 10 Recitation
Video: *Bunraku* (online)

Week Ten

Monday, March 13 Genroku Culture – Saikaku & Bashō
Readings: *EMJL* pp. 42-50, 60-66, 131-146 (online)
 TJP pp. 347-356 (online)
 CJP pp. 510-513, 522-530 (online)

Wednesday, March 15 Into the Modern Era
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 169-189
 SJT2 pp. 616-638, 661-664, 671-676, 688-690 (online)

Friday, March 17 Recitation
Video: *Ee ja nai ka* (online)

Week Eleven

Monday, March 20 Early Meiji
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 193-213
 SJT2 pp. 694-707, 727-734, 745-749 (online)

Wednesday, March 22 Japan as Empire
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 217-239
 SJT2 pp. 790-795, 811-815, 821-827, 859-863, 886-889,
 948-951, 967-975 (online)

Friday, March 24 Recitation
Video: *The Story of the Last Chrysanthemum* (online)

Week Twelve

Monday, March 27 Beginnings of modern literature
Readings: *MJL* pp. 55-69, 124-133, 159-200, 232-242

Wednesday, March 29 Meiji and Taishō literature
Readings: *MJL* pp. 134-158, 261-277
 Akutagawa Ryūnosuke: “In a Grove” and “Rashōmon” (online)

Friday, March 31 Recitation
Video: *Rashômon* (online)

Week Thirteen

Monday, April 3 Meiji and Taishô literature
Readings: *MJL* pp. 333-374

Wednesday, April 5 WWII and the Occupation
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 241-267
 SJT2 pp. 980-983, 1006-1013, 1021-1034, 1065-1066,
 1070-1072 (online)

Friday, April 7 Recitation
Video: *Black Rain* (online)

Week Fourteen

Monday, April 10 Postwar Literature
Readings: *MJL* pp. 383-386, 398-438
 Hara Tamiki: “Summer Flower” (online)
 Hirabayashi Taiko: “Blind Chinese Soldiers” (online)

Wednesday, April 12 Japan to the present
Readings: *BHJC* pp. 267-297
 SJT2 pp. 1094-1100, 1281-1285, 1288-1298, 1302-1305 (online)

Friday, April 14 Recitation
Video: *Mononoke Hime* (online)

Week Fifteen

Monday, April 17 Contemporary Literature
Readings: *MJL* pp. 429-438
 Abe Kôbô: “The Magic Chalk” (online)
 Ôe Kenzaburô: “Aghwee the Sky Monster” (online)
 Murakami Haruki: “The Last Lawn of the Afternoon” (online)

Thursday, April 20 4-6pm

Final Exam – Bring a Blue Book