

Fall 2006 • LIT 295
Lec: T•R 12:30-2pm (E-F)
Office hours: M 10-11am, W•F 2-3pm

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Literature in the Age of the Samurai

For almost seven hundred years, from the 12th to the 19th century, Japan was ruled by the *samurai* warrior class. However, the values that defined that class shifted radically as they were forced to adapt to changing circumstances. This class examines the ever-changing and often contradictory roles of the *samurai* through the lens of Japanese literature, from the early view of warriors as uncultured brutes inferior to the refined aristocracy, to their seizing of political power in the Kamakura period, to their transformation into a class of bureaucrats in the Edo. The course also focuses on the way in which the *samurai* have been mythologized and transformed into an ideal of virtuous behavior, both at the time of their ascendance and well into the modern period.

This course makes extensive use of the university's Blackboard online learning environment, both to distribute readings and as a forum for submitting and responding to reaction papers. Access Blackboard at blackboard.wlu.edu, and login using your W&L Username and Password. The Blackboard interface is fairly straightforward, but if you have no experience using the system or are uncomfortable with computers, let me know immediately so we can help you get started. Becoming experienced with using Blackboard is vital to your success in this course.

Evaluation will be on the basis of class attendance and participation, online reaction papers and responses, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

Attendance and Participation		15%
Six Online Reaction Papers	6 x 5% =	30%
Ten Online Responses	10 x 2% =	20%
Midterm Exam		15%
Final Exam		20%

Most important, both to your grade and to the success of the class, is keeping up on the readings and being ready and willing to discuss them. For each day's readings, select at least one quote from the texts and come to class ready to discuss its significance and your reasons for choosing it. Throughout the semester you will also be required to post reaction papers and responses to the Blackboard online discussion board. A reaction paper should be approximately 1 1/2 to 2 pages long 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 give your interpretation of the material in light of your own experience and the issues we raise in class, and should show an active engagement with the text. Remember: you aren't expected to be an expert on the topic, just an engaged reader. Reaction papers must be posted online **by midnight the day before** the class in which the readings are to be discussed, in order to give your fellow students time to read them and respond before class. Late reaction papers are

useless to fostering online discussion and thus will not be accepted. Six of these papers are required over the course 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. Although there will be many days when you do not write a reaction paper yourself, other students' reaction papers are considered a part of the required readings for all students, and you should make a point of reading the other students' reactions, and perhaps writing an online response to them, before coming to class (the response deadline). The online responses are less formal than the reaction papers and should respond not only to the text itself, but to the other students' reactions. There is no set length for these responses, but they should show a willingness to engage with other students' ideas rather than relying only on one's own interpretation. A minimum of ten of these responses are required over the course of the semester, but you are encouraged to write more. These online discussions will be the jumping off point for in-class discussion.

There are five required texts for this course:

The Tales of the Heike, Burton Watson & Haruo Shirane trans.
Legends of the Samurai, Sato Hiroaki (LOS)
Code of the Samurai, Thomas Cleary trans.
Chūshingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers, Donald Keene, trans.
Musui's Story, Katsu Kokichi

Additional readings will be made available in pdf format in the "Materials" section of Blackboard. These readings are identified on the syllabus with a ■ mark. Frequently used texts (and the abbreviations by which they are identified on the syllabus) are listed below, and are also on reserve at the library.

Classical Japanese Prose, Helen Craig McCullough, ed. (CJP)
Sources of Japanese Tradition, vol. 1 William deBary, et. al. (SJT1)
Sources of Japanese Tradition, vol. 2 William deBary, et. al. (SJT2)
Early Modern Japanese Literature, Haruo Shirane, ed. (EMJL)

In addition to the required readings, some days also list recommended films. These can be viewed at the Tucker Multimedia Center (TMC) at any time the week prior to that date. The films are not required (and DO NOT replace that day's readings), but you may choose to write a reaction paper based on these films on that day.

This class encompasses time slots E & F (12:20-2:20pm), but will normally run from 12:30 until 2:00. Note, however, that on some days the discussion may run beyond 2:00 and on some days I may announce that you should arrive at 12:20 for the next session in order to accommodate extra time for film clips, midterm exam, etc. The final exam period for Fall '06 is from December 9th-15th. Final exam envelopes will be provided by the department and must be filled out and returned to the instructor during the last week of classes. EALL final exams are distributed through the German Department on the 2nd floor of Tucker Hall, and you will be required to take the exam in designated rooms in Tucker Hall. Bring a blue book.

Course Schedule

Getting Started Syllabus and Introduction

Thursday, September 7th Syllabus, Introduction to Course
Background: The Heian Period

Week One Oral Literature and the Military Tale

Tuesday, September 12th Early Kamakura Literature
Readings: *Hôjôki* (CJP pp. 377-392) ■
 Konjaku monogatari (LOS pp. 19-36, 47-60, 71-92)

Thursday, September 14th Military Tales and Picture Scrolls
Readings: *Hôgen monogatari*, *Heiji monogatari* (SJT1 pp. 265-276) ■
 “The Heiji Scroll Paintings” (Reischauer pp.447-457) ■
 -- Also view *Tale of Heiji* picture scroll – link on Blackboard --

Week Two *Heike Monogatari*

Tuesday, September 19th
Readings: *Tales of the Heike* Introduction, ch. 1-5 (pp. 1-64)

Thursday, September 21st
Readings: *Tales of the Heike* ch. 6-9 (pp. 65-100)

Week Three *Heike Monogatari*

Tuesday, September 26th
Readings: *Tales of the Heike* ch. 11, 12, Initiates (pp. 101-169)

Thursday, September 28th Yoshitsune & Benkei in legend
Readings: *Yoshitsune* (pp. 69-87, 121-127, 153-165, 255-272, 285-292) ■

Week Four The Muromachi Period

Tuesday, October 3rd Transition to Ashikaga Rule
Readings: *Taiheiki* (CJP pp. 472-494) ■
 “Kusonoki Masashige” (LOS pp. 157-187)

Thursday, October 5th *Yûgen*, tea, and *nô*
Readings: “Vocabulary of Japanese Aesthetics II” (SJT1 pp. 364-398) ■
 “Elements of Performance” (Brazell pp. 115-125) ■
Recommended film(at TMC): *Rikyu*

Week Five Nô Drama

Tuesday, October 10th *Nô*
Readings: *Yashima* (Tyler pp. 329-343) 𠩺
 Funa Benkei (Tyler pp. 82-95) 𠩺
 Ataka (Yasuda pp. 103-132) 𠩺
 Atsumori (Tyler pp. 37-48) 𠩺

Thursday, October 12th ••• Reading Day • No Class •••

Week Six The Changing Role of the Samurai

Tuesday, October 17th ••• Midterm Exam – Come at 12:20! Bring Blue Books! •••

Thursday, October 19th Samurai codes
Readings: “Law and Precepts for Warrior Households” (*SJTI* pp. 413-432) 𠩺
 “Hôjô Sôun” (*LOS* pp. 249-253)
 “*The Regime of the Unifiers*” (*SJTI* pp. 433-440) 𠩺
 Hideyoshi’s Domestic Policies (*SJTI* pp. 458-465) 𠩺
 “*The Tokugawa Peace*” (*SJT2* pp. 1-6) 𠩺
 “Tokugawa: Era of Peace” (Lu pp. 203-208) 𠩺

Week Seven Into the Edo Period

Tuesday, October 24th The Role of Samurai in the Edo Period
Readings: “Yamaga Sokô” (*SJT2* pp. 186-194) 𠩺
 Code of the Samurai – entire book

Thursday, October 26th Ihara Saikaku
Readings: “*Ihara Saikaku*” (*EMJL* pp.42-45) 𠩺
 “*Great Mirror of Male Love*” (*EMJL* pp. 120-127) 𠩺
 “*Tales of Samurai Duty*” (*EMJL* pp. 127-131) 𠩺
 “*Buke Giri Monogatari*” (Callahan pp. 7-20) 𠩺
 Great Mirror of Male Love (Schalow pp. 85-96, 174-179) 𠩺

Week Eight Kabuki and Bunraku

Tuesday, October 31st Introduction to Kabuki & Bunraku
Readings: “*Elements of Performance*” (Brazell pp. 303-313) 𠩺
 Kanjinchô (Scott pp. 13-44) 𠩺
Recommended film(at TMC): *Men Who Step on the Tiger’s Tail*
 (*Tora no o o fumu otokotachi*)

Thursday, November 2nd *Ichinotani futaba gunki*
Readings: “*Chronicle of the Battle of Ichinotani*” (Brandon pp. 165-211) 𠩺

Week Nine The Akô Vendetta in history and literature

Tuesday, November 7th The Akô Vendetta
Readings: “The Forty-Seven Samurai” (*LOS* pp. 304-338)
 Chûshingura Introduction (pp. 1-26)

Thursday, November 9th *Chûshingura*
Readings: *Chûshingura* Acts 1-5 (pp. 29-86)

Week Ten The Ideal of the Samurai in the late Tokugawa

Tuesday, November 14th *Chûshingura*
Readings: *Chûshingura* Acts 6-11 (pp. 87-180)
Recommended film(at TMC): *Chûshingura*

Thursday, November 16th Ideal warriors: *Hakkenden & Hagakure*
Readings: *Hagakure* (*LOS* pp. 287-303)
 “*The Eight Dog Chronicles*” (*EMJL* pp. 885-909) 📖

•• November 20th – 24th • Thanksgiving Break ••

Week Eleven The Reality of the Samurai in the late Tokugawa

Tuesday, November 28th A far from ideal samurai
Readings: *Musui’s Story* pp. 1-108

Thursday, November 30th The end of the Tokugawa
Readings: *Musui’s Story* pp. 109-157
Recommended films(at TMC): *Twilight Samurai*
 Éjanai ka

Week Twelve (Re?)articulating the Samurai Ideal

Note: Return the final exam envelope with your desired schedule this week

Tuesday, December 5th The Samurai Ideal for a New Age
Readings: *Bushidô* ch. 1, 2, 15, 16, 17 (Nitobe pp. 11-22, 97-112) 📖
 “*The Japanese Image of Death*,” (Sparling pp. 99-105) 📖
 Mishima’s “*Manifesto*,” (Lifton pp. 233-235) 📖
Recommended films(at TMC): *Mishima: a Life in Four Chapters*

Thursday, December 7th The Samurai Ideal in Modern Literature
Readings: “*The Abe Family*,” (*LOS* pp. 341-379)
 “*Patriotism*,” (Mishima pp. 93-118) 📖

Final Exam Period: December 9th – 15th