

Prof. Michael R. Drompp
Clough 309
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Office hours: M 11:00-12:00, W 3:00-4:00, and by appointment

HISTORY 288: Japanese Civilization

CRN # 27130

4 credit hours

Fulfils the following foundational requirements: F3, F9

MWF 10:00-10:50, Palmer 207

Required texts for purchase:

- Beasley, W.G. *The Japanese Experience: A Short History of Japan*
Lu, David J. *Japan: A Documentary History*, vol. 1: *The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period*
Ikegami, Eiko. *The Taming of the Samurai: Honorific Individualism and the Making of Modern Japan*
Keene, Donald, trans. *Chūshingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers*

This course examines Japan’s history and culture from prehistoric times to the mid-nineteenth century. Important themes include Japan’s creation of a unique culture through both isolation and cultural receptivity, the formation and preservation of enduring values, the structure and transformations of Japanese society as well as the role of religion within that society, and Japan’s “cult of aesthetics.”

Requirements for the course include:

- Regular class attendance and alert participation
- Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials (see in particular the discussion of asterisked* readings below)
- One short paper (1500-word minimum)
- One long paper (3000-word minimum)
- Three exams (including the final exam)
- Two slide quizzes

Additional readings, quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audiovisual materials. Papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. Late work will receive a grade of “F” but will still count towards fulfillment of the course requirements. For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential. Be certain to use proper form in your papers. Errors of this type will be penalized. If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness. Always keep a hard copy (a

copy on paper) of each draft of your paper. Each paper must have a title page with a meaningful title, your name, and the paper's final word count. All papers should include page numbers.

Thoughtful classroom participation is encouraged and will be considered in the calculation of the final grade for the course. Because the study of history requires the ability to analyze primary sources, class discussion will focus upon this activity. For each of the asterisked* readings from the Lu book and online, you are required to prepare brief written responses to these questions: (1) What is the historical context for this source? That is, you should think about who wrote this document, when, and why. (2) How does this source serve as a “lens” through which to view Japan’s history? That is, you should think about what this source can tell us about conditions, beliefs, attitudes, etc. in Japan at the time it was written. (3) What are the benefits and problems (if any) related to the use of this source? That is, you should think about how this particular “lens” may both clarify and distort our view of Japanese history. You will be called on at random to answer these questions and should be prepared for this by having your answers written out in a clear and careful manner.

Respect for others in the class is essential. Excessive absences and/or disruptive behavior in the classroom will result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Three absences are allowed without penalty; excessive absences (i.e., nine or more) will result in the student being dropped from the course or in an “F” for the final course grade. A good rule of thumb: Do not expect to get a final grade higher than the percentage of classes you attended (e.g.: If you attend 80% of all scheduled class meetings, you should not expect a final grade higher than 80% – a B-). You should avoid disruptive behavior such as arriving late, leaving early, or stepping out of the room during class. Cell phones and beepers should be turned off before entering the classroom.

Final grades will be based approximately on the following system, with a total of 1500 points:

3 exams, 200 points each	600 points
2 slide quizzes, 25 points each	50 points
1 short paper	150 points
1 long paper	300 points
Classroom participation	400 points

Extra credit will not be permitted. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of legitimate, documented reasons; if you are wondering if your excuse is legitimate, it probably is not. Failure to complete any graded assignment will result in a failing grade for the course. Note that a “W” (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes honor code. Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the College. In your papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else’s information/material/ideas without properly citing the source of the particular information/material/ideas in question). Plagiarism is intellectual theft and a violation of the honor code, and will result in a grade of “F” for the course. You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the sources are quoted directly or not. Note that the Rhodes Honor Council’s constitution states: “A student must give credit to the

originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following: (1) quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written; (2) paraphrases another person's actual words, either oral or written; (3) uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; and (4) borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material unless the information is common knowledge." Such credit is done through proper documentation in footnotes. Consequently, in all your papers, you must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not. Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments and exams. Studying together can be an excellent way to learn, but can (in extreme cases) lead to disconcerting similarities. Extreme instances of similarities in exams or papers may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

SYLLABUS

The following syllabus tells you which pages are to be completed PRIOR TO that day's class.

Week 1

- Jan. 10 W Introduction to the course and texts; the geography of Japan and its historical setting
- 12 F Japan's prehistoric cultures
READING: Beasley, xv-2, 7-11

Week 2

- Jan. 15 M **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO CLASS**
- 17 W Shintō religion and Japanese mythology
READING: Beasley, 2-7, 16-18
Lu, 3-8, 17-20*
- 19 F The early Yamato state
READING: Beasley, 11-15
Lu, 9-14

Week 3

- Jan. 22 M The spread of Chinese influence
READING: Beasley, 19-30
Lu, 21-26*, 33-36
- 24 W Early Buddhism in Japan
READING: Beasley, 41-44

Lu, 46-50

- 26 F The culture of the Nara period
READING: Lu, 36-39, 39-46*

Week 4

- Jan. 29 M Introduction to the Heian period
READING: Beasley, 30-40
Lu, 51-53

PLAN AHEAD: Your short paper is due in class on Wednesday, 7 February. This paper should be a consideration of Heian attitudes towards women as expressed in the various works of Heian-era literature that we are reading for 31 January – 7 February. Your essay should have a title page with an original, meaningful title, your name, and the total word count. Your essay should begin with a specific, clearly-stated thesis/argument that is then supported by your evidence. Pages should be numbered, and your essay should employ parenthetical annotation to refer to the various works under consideration.

- Jan. 31 W Heian society
READING: Lu, 71-79
Selections from *Kagerō Nikki* (online)*
- Feb. 2 F Heian thought and religion
READING: Beasley, 44-54
Lu, 60-69
Selections from *Murasaki Shikibu Nikki* (online)*

Week 5

- Feb. 5 M Heian culture and the “cult of beauty”
READING: Beasley, 69-77
Selections from *Kokinshū* and *Gosenshū* (online)*
Selections from *Murasaki Shikibu Nikki* (online)*
- 7 W Heian literature and music
READING: Selections from *Makura no Sōshi* (online)*
Selections from *Genji Monogatari* (online)

SHORT PAPER DUE

- 9 F Arts of the Heian period
READING: Beasley, 54-60

Week 6

- Feb. 12 M The end of the Heian period and the founding of the Kamakura *bakufu*
READING: Beasley, 61-69

Lu, 81-86, 89-92, 101-104
Selections from *Heike Monogatari* (online)*

- 14 W **FIRST EXAM** (bring bluebooks)
- 16 F Early feudal Japan: The Kamakura *bakufu*
READING: Beasley, 78-89
Lu, 106-116*

Week 7

- Feb. 19 M Buddhism during the Kamakura period: Amida and the Pure Land
READING: Beasley, 98-104
Lu, 117-126, 126-138*
- 21 W Buddhism during the Kamakura period: Nichiren and Zen
READING: Lu, 138-145*
- 23 F The arts of the Kamakura period
READING: Beasley, 104-108, 110-111

Week 8

- Feb. 26 M The Ashikaga (Muromachi) period
READING: Beasley, 89-97
Lu, 147-149, 153-156
- 28 W The development of *nō* and *kyōgen*
READING: Beasley, 108-110
Sotoba Komachi and *Busu* (online)*
- Mar. 2 F The arts of the Ashikaga period
READING: Beasley, 111-115
SLIDE QUIZ

Week 9

- Mar. 5 M Social change in feudal Japan
READING: Beasley, 116-122
Lu, 163-167
- 7 W The samurai culture of feudal Japan
READING: Ikegami, 1-77*
- 9 F Samurai organization and values
READING: Ikegami, 78-148*

Mar. 12 – 16 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 10

- Mar. 19 M The reunification of Japan
READING: Beasley, 122-127
 Lu, 171-175, 186-197*, 197-201
- 21 W The Momoyama era and the art of tea
- 23 F **SECOND EXAM** (bring bluebooks)

PLAN AHEAD: Your long paper is due in class on Wednesday, 4 April. This should be an essay considering the role of the “samurai ethic” as expressed in Tokugawa culture, and particularly the play *Chūshingura*. You should use Ikegami’s book (in its entirety) for background, and then examine the play through that particular lens. Your essay should have a title page with an original, meaningful title, your name, and the total word count. Your essay should begin with a specific, clearly-stated thesis/argument that is then supported by your evidence. Pages should be numbered, and your essay should employ footnotes and a bibliography, both in proper format.

Week 11

- Mar. 26 M The Tokugawa *bakufu*
READING: Beasley, 128-133
 Lu, 203-208
- 28 W Tokugawa: The age of peace
READING: Ikegami, 151-222*
 Lu, 212-219
- 30 F Tokugawa: The age of seclusion
READING: Beasley, 134-151
 Lu, 220-228*

Week 12

- Apr. 2 M Tokugawa society
READING: Beasley 152-170
 Lu, 254-258*

4 W Tokugawa urbanites and their culture: the floating world
READING: Beasley, 171-178
Selections from *Nanshoku Ōkagami* (online)*

6 F EASTER BREAK – NO CLASS

Week 13

- Apr. 9 M Tokugawa theater and the *haiku*
READING: Beasley, 178-187
Selected *haiku* (online)*
- 11 W **NO CLASS – work on paper**
- 13 F **LONG PAPER DUE in History Dept. office no later than 3:00 PM**

Week 14

- Apr. 16 M Discussion of the “samurai ethic” and *Chūshingura*
- 18 W The arts of the Tokugawa period
- 20 F Social change in late Tokugawa Japan

Week 15

- Apr. 23 M The decline of the Tokugawa *bakufu* and the challenge of the West
READING: Beasley, 188-209
Lu, 263-271*
- 25 W The collapse of the *bakufu* and the Meiji Restoration
READING: Beasley, 210-218
SLIDE QUIZ
- 27 F **U.R.C.A.S. – NO CLASS**

Exam Week

- Apr. 30 M **5:30 PM: THIRD EXAM (bring bluebooks)**