History of Japan ~ Tentative Class Schedule

ASH 3440-U01 (32985) Tu/Th 11-12:15AM: Graham Center 285
Dr. Amy Bliss Marshall, History & Asian Studies Office Hours: 391-B Deuxième Maison
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Course Description
This course explores the dramatic transformations in social structures, cultural practices, and the organization of power that have shaped Japan’s past, and continue to inform its present. Themes of particular interest include the tension between elite and popular understandings of what an ideal society might look like, the interaction between indigenous and foreign systems of knowledge and technology, and the struggle to preserve “traditional” Japan from the onslaught of modernity.

Course Objectives
This course is intended to provide students with a broad overview of Japanese society from its earliest history to the contemporary era. By analyzing key pieces of textual evidence, and many varieties of cultural production, students will both develop their skills in historical analysis, and broaden their understanding of how Japanese in different communities, and at different times, engaged the world in which they lived. One part of that process will involve becoming familiar with the questions and theoretical frameworks that historians use to interpret the past, and the approaches they take to texts, other forms of evidence, and historical inquiry in general. Another equally important goal of the course is for students to learn how to articulate their own conclusions and historically informed arguments clearly in written form and in discussions.

Learning Outcomes
Students will:
• Understand historical and academic materials on Asia;
• Critically engage with historical and cultural studies methods;
• Demonstrate effective written communication skills by writing an analytic essay and doing related scaffold assignments;
• Undertake a small amount of independent research after being oriented to FIU’s libraries;
• Articulate interpretive arguments concisely and clearly;
• Utilize critical and synthetic thinking to explore historical themes on in-class exams.

Required Texts

Other Texts & Materials
MIT Visualizing Cultures Website:

Other readings and resources (including this syllabus) will be posted to the Blackboard course site and/or available on reserve at the Library.
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Course Requirements
In-Class Exams — There will be in-class review sessions before each of these tests. Exam One (tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 16) will account for 30% of your grade; Exam Two (tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 11) will also account for 30% of your grade.

Modular Assignments — There will be a few smaller written assignments throughout the term (in-class activities, an outline, annotated bibliography, etc.) some related to the final paper. These assignments are designed to get you thinking about our readings as well as to help organize you for writing the final paper. The total of these assignments will account for 10% percent of your grade.

In-Class Participation — Attendance is required since discussion is an essential component of the course. Students should be prepared to analyze assigned readings and other materials, and to share opinions, ideas, and questions during class. Participation in class discussion will account for 10% of the final grade in the course.

Final Analytic Essay — Students will write a final analytical paper, of no more than 2000 words each. This essay will be based on provided prompts and should relate the course materials to their outside research (done for the in-class presentation). The essay will account for 20% of your grade in the course. Essay will be due by the time of the final exam date.

Course Policies
All assignments, exams, and exercises are due as indicated on the syllabus. Please let me know if you encounter any difficulties in the course, including any associated with deadlines. There will be no make-ups or extensions except for medical emergency, in which case you will need to provide appropriate documentation. Failure to complete a required component of the course will result in a failing grade. 4 absences (excused or otherwise) in a row or 6 combined absences will result in a failing grade if the student does not withdraw from the course. The University Drop Date for Spring 2017 is March 20th.

Plagiarism or other offenses against the Code of Academic Integrity will result in a failing grade and possible disciplinary action by the University. This can be found at: http://academic.fiu.edu/AcademicBudget/misconductweb/Code_of_Academic_Integrity.pdf
As is noted on the FIU website, students are expected to do their own work and avoid plagiarizing, understood as “the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s works without any indication of the source and the representation of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for the ideas, expressions or materials taken from another source, including internet sources, is guilty of plagiarism.”

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:
✧ Term papers acquired online or from other sources;
✧ Copying of original material without attribution;
✧ Use of other students’ work;
✧ Copying and pasting, verbatim, information from Internet sources, without quotation marks and correct citation.

See: http://libguides.fiu.edu/plagiarism for specific recommendations regarding proper citation of sources in historical analysis. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns on these or other issues.

➢ I reserve the right to adjust the schedule, readings, and assignments, though you will only be given less work or more time in those cases. ➢
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Origins and Early Japan
Tuesday, January 10  Introductions
Thursday, January 12  First Communities
   Readings: Japan before Perry, pp. 1-69; and Kojiki: excerpts

Tuesday, January 17  Beliefs, Legends and the Emerging Imperial Line
Thursday, January 19  Adaptations & Borrowing
   Readings: Japan before Perry, pp. 70-132; and The Tale of Genji, chapters 1-6, and 10.

Medieval Japan
Tuesday, January 24  Temples, Shrines & the City
Thursday, January 26  The Rise of the Warrior Class
   Readings: The Tale of the Heike, feel free to read other sections if they interest you, but cover at least these pages: Introduction & Vol 1, Ch. 1-6 (p. 1-32); Ch.10 (p. 40-42) and Ch. 13-14 (p.49-52); Vol. 2, Ch. 1 (Exile p. 59-60); CH. 3 (Execution p. 64-67); Ch. 13 (Burning p. 88-89); Vol. 4, Ch.2 - Imperial Return Journey (p.144-145); Vol. 4 Ch 12-13. Fight at the Bridge & The Fate of the Prince (p.165-170); Vol. 10 - Ch. 1 Carrying Rounds of Heads (p.364-366); Ch. 14, Koremori (p. 391-392); Vol. 11, Ch. 7-12 (p.410-428)

Tuesday, January 31  No Class – enjoy!
Thursday, February 2  Warring States
   Readings: Japan before Perry, pp. 133-232

Early Modern Japan
Tuesday, February 7  Toward Unification & The Tokugawa World
Thursday, February 9  Spiritual & Physical Boundaries
   Required Viewing: Chūshingura, entire
   Readings: “Notes on the Forty-Six Men”

Tuesday, February 14  Recap & Discussion Day
Thursday, February 16  Exam One

Making Modern Japan
Tuesday, February 21  From Tokugawa to Meiji
Thursday, February 23  Revolution

Tuesday, February 28  Imagining the Nation
Thursday, March 2  Citizens, Subjects, & Empires
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Imperial Crises and Transwar Japan

Tuesday, March 7  From Meiji to Taishō
Thursday, March 9  Modernity, Moga, and Media

Readings: Japan: A Modern History, pp. 245-397, and MIT Visualizing Cultures, “Throwing Off Asia”

Tuesday, March 13  SPRING BREAK ~ NO CLASSES
Thursday, March 16  SPRING BREAK ~ NO CLASSES

Tuesday, March 21  Imperial Crises & Making Sense of the 1930s
Thursday, March 23  Going to War

Readings: Japan: A Modern History, pp. 397-515

Tuesday, March 28  The Home-Front
Thursday, March 30  Losing

Readings: Japan at War: An Oral History, selections

Tuesday, April 4  The Occupation
Thursday, April 6  Recap & Discussion Day

Tuesday, April 11  Exam Two

Japan Approaching the Present

Thursday, April 14  Continuity & Change


Tuesday, April 18  The Good Life
Thursday, April 20  Memory & History

Required Viewing: ANPO: Art x War, entire