

History 578, History of Japan
Fall 2006
T & Th 12:35-1:50, HSS 153

Instructor: Dr. Pi-ching Hsu, Associate Professor
 Office: Science 265A
 Phone: (415) 338-7536
 E-mail: pchsu@sfsu.edu
 Office Hours: T 2:10-3:00 p.m.; Th 2:10-4:00 p.m.

Japan is an island country of modest geographic size and a late developer in world history, but today it has emerged as a giant in world economy and politics. Throughout its history Japan has borrowed first from China, then from the West; yet it has preserved its own cultural identity and has developed one of the most distinctive cultures in the world. This course traces the evolution of Japanese civilization from past to present. While we look at Japanese history from all aspects--geographic, political, economic, social, cultural, and demographic--we pay special attention to Japan's cultural heritage, social structure, and international relationships through the ages.

- * *This class fulfills History Major and Minor requirement.*
- * *This course is part of the GE Segment III cluster: America and World Affairs, Category C & Asian Society, Politics, and Culture, Category B.*
- * *To receive Segment III credit for this course, students must complete the cluster as described in the Class Schedule and Bulletin, including the requirement that they must have earned 60 units by the end of the semester in which they take the course.*
- * *Segment III courses are required to include a minimum of 10 pages of writing corrected by the instructor. This course meets or exceeds this minimum requirement.*

Mode of Instruction: lecture, films, classroom discussion of assigned readings, student-led activities, exams, and essay assignment

Texts:

Conrad Schirokauer, A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, 2nd edition
 Helen Craig McCullough, trans., Genji & Heike: Selections From "The Tale of Genji" and "The Tale of the Heike"
 Anne Walthall, ed., The Human Tradition in Modern Japan

Requirements and Grading:

1. Do all required reading **before** class. Each student will **assist to lead reading group discussion** of **one chapter** from Tale of Genji, Tale of Heike, or Human Tradition in Modern Japan. Pick 2-3 passages and/or issues from the reading for discussion, and provide your own insight. **DO NOT SIMPLY SUMMARIZE THE READING—IT'S BORING!** In these sessions, everybody should **bring your textbook** and participate. **Attendance** will be taken throughout the semester and your performance will be noted. Class participation constitutes **10%** of the semester's grade.
2. There are **three tests** of multiple-choice, map, identification of terms, and/or essay questions, worth **45%** of the semester's grade. Study guides will be distributed prior to the exams. **No make-up exams** will be granted without compelling reason.

3. There are **two essay assignments**, worth **45%** of the semester’s grade:
 - a). A **5-7 page essay** on **Genji & Heike**:
 The essay should discuss significant social, cultural, or political changes that occurred between the historical moments covered by The Tale of Genji and The Tale of the Heike. Consult both novels and at least **two** additional scholarly works, for example, books and articles in academic journals such as the Journal of Japanese Studies, the Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Asian History, Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, and Monumenta Nipponica. You may look at any **one** of the following aspects: moral ethics, aesthetic values, religious beliefs and practices, social structure, political power structure, gender relations, ideal manhood, aristocratic culture, warrior culture, and so on. Please take into consideration the differences of authorship. Beware that even though The Tale of the Heike is about the Gempei War of 1180-1185, the tale was not standardized until 1371; therefore, the tale should be read against the historical background of the Gempei War, as well as against the values of the age of the shoguns.
 - b). A **5-7 page essay** on a topic of **modern Japanese history**, related to, or comparable with, a person, an event, or a movement discussed in Human Tradition in Modern Japan. Consult the textbooks and at least **two** additional scholarly works.

The papers should be **typed, double-spaced, using 12-point font**, with proper **documentation** by footnoting the author, title of book/article, and page number of source material that you cite, paraphrase, or summarize in your essay. Put **page number** on the upper right-hand corner and **staple** on the upper left-hand corner. Late papers will be penalized, as will typos and other mechanical errors. Observe the school regulation concerning **plagiarism**. Grading is based on both form and content.

Performance Characteristics to Guide Grading of Essays:
 (Based on the criteria of CSET: Social Science Exam)

- * **PURPOSE:** The extent to which the student responds to the question’s/assignment’s charge in relation to relevant subject matter requirements.
- * **SUBJECT MATTER KNOWLEDGE:** The application of accurate subject matter knowledge as described in the relevant subject matter requirements.
- * **SUPPORT:** The appropriateness and quality of the supporting evidence in relation to the relevant subject matter requirements.
- * **DEPTH AND BREADTH OF UNDERSTANDING:** The degree to which the essay demonstrates understanding of the relevant subject matter requirements.

93 & up	A	90-92	A-	87-89	B+	83-86	B
80-82	B-	77-79	C+	73-76	C	70-72	C-
67-69	D+	63-66	D	60-62	D-	below 60	F

All requirements have to be fulfilled to get a passable grade. "**Incomplete**" will be granted only upon written request, with good reason, and when the student has completed and passed at least 75% of the course requirements. "**WU**" (Unauthorized Withdrawal)

will be assigned if the student fails to fulfil all requirements by the final exam day without filling out a petition for Incomplete or Withdrawal.

Class Schedule:

8/29: Introduction to the course

From Jomon and Yayoi to the Yamato State and Nara Period

8/31: Brief History, 1-17

9/5: Brief History, 18-46

Sign up to schedule class activities

Heian Japan and Its Aristocratic Culture

9/7: Brief History, 47-66

9/12: Brief History, 66-77

Genji & Heike, 3-22

9/14: FILM: *Japan Past & Present: 1. Buddha in the Land of the Kami* (#82535)
TEST # 1

9/19: Genji & Heike, 25-83 (**reading group discussion**)

9/21: Genji & Heike, 84-130 (**reading group discussion**)

9/26: Genji & Heike, 131-189 (**reading group discussion**)

9/28: Genji & Heike, 190-242 (**reading group discussion**)

Kamakura Shogunate & Culture of the Warrior

10/3: Brief History, 78-99

10/5: Genji & Heike, 245-287 (**reading group discussion**)

10/10: Genji & Heike, 288-337 (**reading group discussion**)

10/12: Genji & Heike, 338-397 (**reading group discussion**)

10/17: Genji & Heike, 398-458 (**reading group discussion**)

Ashikaga (Muromachi) Culture and Society

10/19: Brief History, 100-119

The Age of the Strong Men

10/24: Brief History, 121-141

Tokugawa Shogunate: Climax and Decline of Feudalism

10/26: Brief History, 142-153

FIRST ESSAY DUE

Genroku Urban Culture

10/31: Brief History, 152-166

- FILM: *The Art of Kabuki* (#82644) (36 min)
The Rise of Modern Japan: The Meiji Restoration
- 11/2: Brief History, 167-191
From Meiji Imperialism to Taisho Democracy
- 11/7: Brief History, 192-215
TEST # 2
- 11/9: Brief History, 216-239
Pacific War & American Occupation
- 11/14: Brief History, 240-257
- 11/16: Brief History, 258-267
- 11/20-25: Thanksgiving. No Classes.
New Japan
- 11/28: Brief History, 267-297
Human Stories in Modern Japan
- 11/30: Human Tradition in Modern Japan, xi-24 (**reading group discussion**)
TEST # 3
- 12/5: Human Tradition in Modern Japan, 25-79 (**reading group discussion**)
- 12/7: Human Tradition in Modern Japan, 81-133 (**reading group discussion**)
- 12/12: Human Tradition in Modern Japan, 135-174 (**reading group discussion**)
- 12/14: Human Tradition in Modern Japan, 175-229 (**reading group discussion**)
- 12/19: **SECOND ESSAY DUE in my office, SCI 265 A, 10 am-12 noon**
(ABSOLUTELY NO EXTENSION)
- 1/3: Grades due
- Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!*