

JAPAN TO 1868

History 277
Fall 2007
TTH: 2:15-4:05

Andrew Hsieh
201 Mears, x3093
Office Hours: W 2:00-4:00 p.m.
and by appointment

This is a survey course on Japanese history. It begins, chronologically, with the emergence of Jomon culture (ca. 8,000 B.C.) and ends with the Tokugawa Period (1600-1867). We shall not be concerned in this course with Japan after Tokugawa, though certain themes may be pursued through later years if doing so helps to clarify or refine them.

The literature on periodization is voluminous, and much of it is tendentious, ideologically biased or silly. Yet some tentative breakdown is necessary. I propose the following:

- I. Japan Before the Coming of Buddhism.
- II. Nara and Heian Periods. 700-1100 A.D.
- III. Kamakura to the Warring State Period. 1185-1600 A.D.
- IV. Tokugawa, 1600-1867.

A major theme of this course is the problem of “cultural borrowing.” Throughout, we shall explore whether Japan has been largely distinctive in its historical evolution until the mid-19th century, or whether it should be seen as part of a larger East Asian Confucian civilization. Students are urged to approach this problem from any of a number of different perspectives: religious life, land system, armed dissidence, literary genres, etc. Whatever the perspective, this main theme should remain paramount.

Requirements include:

- Writing a one-paragraph comment on the weekly principal reading for discussion (not from Totman, Japan Before Perry). Do so for weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11. These one paragraph comments are due in class on Thursdays;
- Preparing DI sheets which are due in class on Thursdays. Do so for weeks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 11.

Each DI (which stands for Discussion initiation) sheet is to be typewritten on one 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper and should contain the following:

- the student’s name;
- the date;
- the student’s title for the week’s discussion;
- the student’s choice of one quotation from the week’s assigned reading for discussion;
- the student’s formulation of one question for the week’s discussion.

Each DI sheet is due in class on Thursday of the week for which the readings are assigned. Late DI sheets will not be accepted.

- Completing two special writing assignments. Instructions to be announced later.
- Participating in discussions in class on Thursdays;

Each student's grade will be based on the performance of four kinds of assignments with roughly equal weight given to each:

- 35% on comments and the DI sheets,
- 35% on the two special writing assignments, and
- 30% on attendance and classroom discussion.

Texts: (● available at the College bookstore)

- Conrad Totman, Japan before Perry (University of California Berkley, 1981)

Ryusaku Tsunoda, Wm. deBary and Donald Keene, eds., Sources of Japanese Tradition (NY: Columbia University Press, 1958)
- Ivan Morris, The World of the Shining Prince, Court Life in Ancient Japan. (NY: Penguin, 1979)

H. Paul Varley, Samurai, (Dell, 1970)

Noel Perrin, Giving Up The Gun: Japan's Reversion to the Sword, 1543-1879 (Boulder, CO: Shambhala, 1980)
- Ihara Saikaku, Five Women Who Loved Love, Amorous Tales from 17th Century Japan (Tokyo: Tuttle, 1956)

Donald Keene, Anthology of Japanese Literature, Vol I (NY: Grove Press, 1960)

David Lu, Japan, A Documentary History (NY: Sharpe, 1997)
- Shusaku Endo, Silence (NY: Taplinger, 1980)

Sessions

Week I

TH Aug 30 Introduction to the course

Week II

T Sep 4 Earliest Record of Japan.
Video: Japan, The Living Tradition

TH Sep 6 The Buddhist Conquest
Readings:
Japan before Perry, “Preface,” “Chapter 1”.
“Japan in the Wei Dynastic History,” in Sources of Japanese Tradition, vol. I,
pp. 3-7.
Selections of the Kojiki., in Japan: A Documentary History, pp. 4-11.

Week III

T Sep 11 The Chinese Influence.

TH Sep 13 Nara Culture
Readings:
Japan before Perry, pp. 42-63.
Selections from the Man'yōshū, in Anthology of Japanese Literature, pp. 33-53.
“Buddhism as Protector of the Nation,” in Documentary History, pp. 46-50.
Japan before Perry, pp. 18-41.
“Prince Shotoku and the 17-Article Constitution, 604 A.D.,” “The Taika Reforms,” “The Taiho-Yoro Code” in Documentary History, pp. 22-36.

Week IV

T Sep 18 Heian and Its Culture

TH Sep 20 Growth of Indigenous Institutions.
Readings:
Ivan Morris, The World of the Shining Prince. “Preface”, “Introduction” and pp. 1-88.

Week V

T Sep 25 **Reading:**
The World of the Shining Prince, pp. 89-250.

TH Sep 27 Video: Japan, The Living Tradition.

Week VI

- T Oct 2 The Kamakura Period (1185-1333): Development of Feudal Institutions.
- TH Oct 4 Samurai.
Readings:
 H. Paul Varley, Samurai, pp. 47-125.
Japan before Perry, pp. 70-132.

Week VII

- T Oct 9 Buddhism in Medieval Japan.
- TH Oct 11 Medieval Culture.
Readings:
 “The Tale of Heike,” in Anthology, pp. 179-191.
 “The Account of My Hut,” in Anthology, pp. 197-212.
 “Tales from the Uji Collection,” in Anthology, pp. 213-223.
 “The Three Priests,” in Anthology, pp. 322-331.

Week VIII

- T Oct 16 First Contact with the West
- TH Oct. 18 Kwaidan (film)

Fall Recess—October 20 through 28

Week IX (No Class)

- T Oct 30 Complete First Special Assignment.
 and
 TH Nov 1 Due date: Nov 5, 4:30 p.m., Academic Support Office, Mears Cottage

Week X

- T Nov 6 Reunification and the Tokugawa Order.
- TH Nov 8 Tokugawa Society.
Readings:
Japan Before Perry, pp. 133-164.
 “Tokugawa: Era of Peace,” in Documentary History, pp. 203-215.

Week XI

- T Nov 13 Economic Growth in Tokugawa.

TH Nov 15 Samurai Culture.
Readings:
“Growth of Commerce,” in Documentary History, pp. 228-241.
“Neo-Confucian Orthodoxy” in Sources of Japanese Tradition, pp. 335-368.

Week XII

T Nov 20 (No class). Begin reading Ihara Saikaku, Five Women Who Loved Love

Week XIII

T Nov 27 Discussion: Five Women Who Loved Love

TH Nov 29 Discussion: Five Women Who Loved Love

Week XIV

T Dec 4 Discussion: Silence

TH Dec 6 Discussion: Silence

Week XV

T Dec 11 Retrospect

TH Dec 13 Complete Second Special Assignment.
Due Date: Dec. 17, 4:30 p.m., Academic Support Office Mears Cottage