This is a survey course on Japanese history. It has no pre-requisites and assumes no prior knowledge of Japanese history. It will meet two times a week and will generally follow this pattern:

Tuesdays: Lecture; Thursdays: Discussion of the week’s assigned readings.

Requirements include:

- Writing a one-paragraph comment on the weekly principal reading for discussion. Do so for weeks 2, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12. 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, 5, 6, 10, and 12.

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;
— 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. DUE DATES: March 15 and April 28. Detailed instructions to be announced.

- Participating in discussions in class on Thursdays;

Each student’s grade will be based on the performance of three 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

I. Jan 22 T Organizational meeting
   Some Enduring Structures
Haru M. Reischauer, *Samurai and Silk: A Japanese and American Heritage*  
(Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1988)  
“A Samurai Boyhood,” 21-41, 155-169  
“A Peasant Background”

II. Jan 29 T   The 1603 Reunification and the New Political Order  
Society and Culture in Tokugawa Japan


III Feb 5 T   Crises and the Western Challenge in Late Tokugawa  
Meiji Restoration

Feb 7 TH  Readings: *Modern History of Japan*, pp. 20-76  
*Samurai and Silk*, pp. 42-63; 170-189

IV Feb 12 T   Protest and Dissent  
The Constitution

Feb 14 TH   No class

V Feb 19 T   Industrialization and Growth  
Treaty Revision and Overseas Expansion

Feb 21 TH  Readings: *Modern History of Japan*, pp. 77-114  
*Samurai and Silk*, pp. 64-112  
*Modern History of Japan*, pp. 115-160  
Mikiso Hane, *Peasants, Rebels, and Outcasts: The Underside of Modern Japan*  
(New York: Pantheon Books, 1982), pp. 2-27; 172-206

V Feb 26 T   THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR  
GUEST LECTURER: Mr. Kevin Crim


VII Mar 4 T   The China Problem
Mar 6  TH  Readings:  Modern History of Japan, pp. 161-203

VIII Mar 11  T  PEARL HARBOR
GUEST LECTURER: Mr. Kevin Crim

Mar 13  TH  NO CLASS
FIRST SPECIAL WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE 4:30 PM
SUBMIT A PAPER COPY TO THE SECRETARY’S OFFICE,
MEARS COTTAGE

SPRING RECESS  (March 15 – March 30)

IX Apr 1  T  FILM: PEARL HARBOR

Apr 3  TH  Readings:  Modern History of Japan, pp. 204-225
Haruko Taya Cook and Theodore F. Cook, Japan at War, An Oral History (New

X Apr 8  T  Shohei Ooka, Fires on the Plain (Tuttle, 1957)

Apr 10  TH  FILM: FIRES ON THE PLAIN

XI Apr 15  T  Legacy’s of the War [I]
Reading: Saburo Ienaga, The Pacific War: World War II and the Japanese, 1931-

Apr 17  TH  Legacies of the War [II]
How the Japanese Remember the Pacific War?
Reading: Beth Gary, trans. Senso (Sharpe, 1995)

XII Apr 22  T  Legacies of the War [III]
“The Rape of Nanjing”
FILM : NANKING

Apr 24  TH  Japan Under Occupation
John Dower, EMBRACING DEFEAT, Chapter 1-5.
MONDAY, APRIL 28  SECOND SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT DUE  
SUBMIT A PAPER COPY BY 4:30 PM,  
SECRETARY’S OFFICE, MEARS COTTAGE  

XIII  April 29  T  EMBRACING DEFEAT, Chapters 6-8  

May 1  TH  EMBRACING DEFEAT, Chapters 13-14  

XIV  May 6  T  EMBRACING DEFEAT, CHAPTERS 15-16  

May 8  TH  Retrospect