

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/Department of History

HIST/ASIA 110A: History of Japan to 1750

Fall 2022

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Xiaojia Hou
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Office Hours:	Tues. & Thurs. 9:15 AM-10:15 AM
Class Days/Time:	Tues. & Thurs. 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
Units:	4 units

Course Description

From the SJSU Catalog: History of Japan from earliest times to 1750. This 4-unit course will focus on the development of state and society from prehistoric times to the 18th century with the objective of furthering student understanding of the fascinating history and culture of Japan. Major topics of the course include the controversy over the origins of the Japanese people; the adaptation of Chinese cultural, religious, and political models; the role of the emperor in state formation; the classical era of Japanese culture during the Heian period; the rise of the samurai elites; and the development of military rule under the shoguns. Student learning will be assessed through class participation, examinations and writing assignments.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Describe and explain the rise of the Japanese emperors and their role in state formation in early Japanese history. **Assessed by exams, papers, and class discussion.**
2. Compare and contrast the role of Shinto, Buddhism, and Confucianism in early Japanese culture. **Assessed by exams, papers, and class discussions.**
3. Describe and explain the rise of samurai elites and the development of military rule under the shoguns. **Assessed by exams, papers, and class discussion.**
4. Demonstrate that they can read, write, and think critically about history. Learn to interpret historical sources, including written documents, visual and fictions to make and support an argument about how and why things happened in the past. **Assessed by exams, papers, class discussion and presentations.**

Required Texts/Readings

1. Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, *Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey*
2. Lu, David, ed. 2nd ed. *Japan: A Documentary History, Vol. 1: The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period*. New York: Routledge, 2015.

3. Seidensticker, Edward, trans. *The Gossamer Years: The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan*. North Clarendon, VT: Tuttle Books.

You should also own a History style guidebook to consult for your writing assignments, such as Diana Hacker, *A Pocket Style Manual*, 7th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2016) ISBN 9781457690884 or Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th ed. (Univ. of Chicago Press, 2013) ISBN 978-0226816388 or Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to Writing in History*, 13th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin's Press, 2016) ISBN 9781319027513.

Other Readings

Additional documents and articles will be posted on the Canvas site, as indicated by * in the syllabus. Doing the reading assigned for each class before coming to class is necessary to benefit from what we do in class. The tentative course schedule indicates details on the readings and the dates by which reading assignments must be completed.

Library Liaison

The History Department Library Liaison is Nyle Monday (nyle.monday@sjsu.edu). Contact him for help with any library assignments in your History classes. His telephone number is (408) 808-2041.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the courses (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practice. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus. **Because this is a four-unit course, you can expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours per week completing class-related assignments in addition to the in-person class meetings.** Assignments include reading the textbooks, accessing supplementary material through Canvas, taking exams, making oral presentations, writing multiple papers, receiving instructor feedback. These assignments may require work beyond the minimum 8-hours of work outside the classroom. Careful time management will help you keep up with readings and assignments and enable you to succeed in all your classes.

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. **Each week Students will read approximately 50-100 pages of material.** Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed.

This class intends to improve students' skills such as critical thinking, oral expression, and analytical writing. This class strongly encourages students to express their opinions. It includes three sessions of students' presentations. Students will also take three midterm exams. By the end of the semester, **students will have completed approximately 30 pages of writing.**

Assignment Details

Quizzes

Discussions

Response Papers. Students are expected to complete 4 response papers, as indicated in the syllabus, due on the assigned Wednesday, 11 PM, online submission.

Mid-term Exam. Combination of multiple choices and short essay questions.

Final Exam. Students are expected to write approximately 6 pages of essays for three questions. Written exams will be returned with instructor feedback.

Essay Proposal.

Final Essay (5-10 pages). This essay is to illuminate aspects of life in traditional Japan (possible choices include religions, social relations, love, crime, ghosts, gender...). The final essay must include an introduction; historical narrative and analysis supporting your thesis, a conclusion, and a source bibliography.

Oral presentation. Each student is required to make one oral presentation.

All written assignments, with the exception of exams, must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font (or an equivalent font), and have one-inch margins. **Written assignments will be graded on both content and composition.**

Grading Information	Assignment Value	Assessment
Mid-term Exam	150 points	CLOs 1-4
Quizzes (4)	120 points	CLOs 1-4
Essay Proposal	50 points	CLOs 1-4
Final Essay	100 points	CLOs 1-4
Oral Presentation	100 points	CLOs 1-4
Response Papers (4)	120 points	CLOs 1-4
Participation & Discussions	100 points	CLOs 1-4
Final Exam	260 points	CLOs 1-4
TOTAL	1000 points	

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>A plus</i>	<i>960 to 1000</i>	<i>96 to 100%</i>
<i>A</i>	<i>930 to 959</i>	<i>93 to 95%</i>
<i>A minus</i>	<i>900 to 929</i>	<i>90 to 92%</i>
<i>B plus</i>	<i>860 to 899</i>	<i>86 to 89 %</i>
<i>B</i>	<i>830 to 859</i>	<i>83 to 85%</i>
<i>B minus</i>	<i>800 to 829</i>	<i>80 to 82%</i>
<i>C plus</i>	<i>760 to 799</i>	<i>76 to 79%</i>
<i>C</i>	<i>730 to 759</i>	<i>73 to 75%</i>
<i>C minus</i>	<i>700 to 729</i>	<i>70 to 72%</i>
<i>D plus</i>	<i>660 to 699</i>	<i>66 to 69%</i>
<i>D</i>	<i>630 to 659</i>	<i>63 to 65%</i>

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>D minus</i>	<i>600 to 629</i>	<i>60 to 62%</i>

Classroom Protocol

All students are expected to attend two lectures each week and complete all assignments. Please come to the class having completed the readings for that day. Active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. If you cannot attend a lecture, it is your responsibility to find out what you have missed. Come to class on time and remain in your seat while class is in session. Do NOT interfere with other students' learning by chatting, passing notes, eating noisily, taking calls, checking messages, or texting in class. Turn off ALL electronic devices such as phones, laptops, tablets, computers, and recorders and put them away when you come to class. Do NOT use electronic devices in class without the instructor's written permission in advance. Do NOT photograph, record, transmit, share, stream, upload, broadcast, or post ANYTHING from this class. Do NOT send or receive calls, texts, or messages in class.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>.

HIST/ASIA 110A: History of Japan to 1750 / Prof. Hou

Fall 2022 Course Schedule

Note: This schedule is subject to change with fair notice as announced in class or posted on Canvas. Please follow the Canvas Instruction.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
2	Aug. 23 Aug. 25	<p>TUESDAY: Introduction THURSDAY: Japan's Natural Setting and Mythology</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Preface and Introduction, chapter 1. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Preface. Gina L. Barnes, "Japan's Natural Setting" *</p>
3	Aug. 30 Sept. 1	<p>TUESDAY: Prehistory and Early Yamato Society THURSDAY: Chinese Civilization in Japan</p> <p>READINGS: Totman, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap. 1. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. I Melvin Aikens, "Origins of the Japanese People" *</p>
4	Sept. 6 Sept. 8	<p>TUESDAY: Reforms THURSDAY: Shinto and Buddhism in Japan</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i> Chap. 2. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. II and III</p> <p>ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Quiz #1</p>
5	Sept. 13 Sept. 15	<p>TUESDAY: Heian Japan I THURSDAY: Heian Japan II</p> <p>READINGS Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Chap. 3. Seidensticker, trans. <i>The Gossamer Years.</i> Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. III-IV "The <i>Shōen</i> System" *</p> <p>Assignments 1. Response Paper #1: Please analyze the structure of the Shoen.</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6	Sept 20 Sept 22	<p>TUESDAY: Heian Society THURSDAY: Rise of Samurai</p> <p>READINGS Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap.3. Seidensticker, trans. <i>The Gossamer Years</i>. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. IV “Oligarchy, Shared Rulership, and Power Blocs” * “Warriors, Warlords, and Domains” *</p> <p>Assignments 1. Response Paper #2: Who ruled Japan?</p>
7	Sept 27 Sept 29	<p>TUESDAY: Presentations on Heian Japan THURSDAY: Discussion and Review</p>
8	Oct 4 Oct 6	<p>TUESDAY: Mid-term Exam THURSDAY: <u>Kwaidan</u></p>
9	Oct 11 Oct 13	<p>TUESDAY: The Kamakura Period THURSDAY: Kamakura Buddhism, Women, Inheritance and Culture</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>., Chap. 4-5. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. V “Medieval Arts and Aesthetics” *</p> <p>Assignments 1. Response Paper #3: How did Sōryō System impact Japan’s development?</p>
10	Oct. 18 Oct. 20	<p>TUESDAY: Ashikaga Japan THURSDAY: Peasants & Townspeople in Medieval Japan Samurai Culture</p> <p>READINGS: Totman, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i> , Chap. 5. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. VI “Medieval Warfare” *</p> <p>Assignments 1. Quiz #2</p>
11	Oct. 25 Oct. 27	<p>TUESDAY: Samurai Culture THURSDAY: The Age of Violence</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>. Chap. 6. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. VII “Gender Relations in the Age of Violence” *</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12	Nov 1 Nov 3	<p>TUESDAY: Early Tokugawa THURSDAY: Early Contact with the West</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap. 7. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. VII</p> <p>Assignments 1. Response Paper #4: In foreigners' eyes, what was the most distinct feature of Japan?</p> <p>Essay Proposal Due</p>
13	Nov 8 Nov 10	<p>TUESDAY: Movie THURSDAY: Tokugawa Society</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap. 7. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. VIII</p> <p>Assignments 1. Quiz #3</p>
14	Nov. 15 Nov. 17	<p>TUESDAY: Tokugawa Culture THURSDAY: The Late Tokugawa Period</p> <p>READINGS: Totman, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap. 8 (start). Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. IX "Thought, Education, and Popular Literacies in Early Modern Japan" *</p>
15	Nov. 22 Nov. 24	Thanksgiving, no class.
16	Nov. 29 Dec. 1	<p>TUESDAY: Presentations on Samurai THURSDAY: Presentations</p>
17	Dec 6	<p>TUESDAY: Presentations and Review</p> <p>Assignments 1. Quiz #4</p>
Final Essay	Dec 9	Online submission
Final Exam	Dec 13	9:45 AM – 12 PM