

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

HIST 110A: History of Japan to 1750

Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Xiaojia Hou
Office Location:	DMH 137
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Email:	Xiaojia.hou@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs 1-1:30 PM & by email & by appointment Join URL: https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/99126717427 Meeting ID 991 2671 7427
Class Days/Time:	Tues. & Thurs. 1:30-2:45 PM
Zoom Meeting ID:	973 3441 9987 (Password: 8a345o) https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/97334419987?pwd=S2dMSVVEVTZzR1JQTm9aYXJhL0Z3UT09
Prerequisites:	Upper Division Standing or Instructor Consent
Units:	4 units

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on the course webpage on the Canvas Learning Management System course login website at <http://sjsu.infrastructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system via MySJSU at <http://my.sjsu.edu> to learn of any updates.

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. Lu, David, ed. 2nd ed. *Japan: A Documentary History, Vol. 1: The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period*. New York: Routledge, 2015. ISBN 97815632449075
2. Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, *Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey*
3. Seidensticker, Edward, trans. *The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan*. North Clarendon, VT: Tuttle Books, 1964; repr. 1989. ISBN 9780804811231

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 practica. 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 35 pages of writing.**

Assignment Details

Quizzes

Discussions

Response Papers. Students are expected to complete 8 response papers, as indicated in the syllabus. The weekly response paper is due on Friday of the same week.

Exams. Students are expected to write approximately 3 pages of short essays for the three exams. Written exams will be returned with instructor feedback.

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
Three Exams	45 points	CLOs 1-4
Quizzes	14 points	CLOs 1-4
Essay	10 points	CLOs 1-4
Oral Presentation	5 points	CLOs 1-4
Response Papers	16 points	CLOs 1-4
Participation & Discussions	10 points	CLOs 1-4
TOTAL	100 points	

93-100	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-	0-59	F

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/>.

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Fall 2020 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
1	Aug. 20	<p>THURSDAY: Introduction</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Preface and Introduction Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Preface.</p> <p>Assignments: 1. Response Paper #1: In one sentence or two, tell us which aspect of Japan’s history you are most interested (1 point, due Aug 21) 2. Self-introduction in discussion section (1 point, due Aug 21). 3. Orientation Quiz (1 point, due Aug 21).</p>
2	Aug. 25 Aug. 27	<p>TUESDAY: Japan’s Natural Setting and Mythology THURSDAY: Prehistory and Early Yamato Society</p> <p>READINGS: Totman, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap. 1. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 1. Gina L. Barnes, “Japan’s Natural Setting” *</p> <p>Assignments: 1 Watch the Tale of the Origin, discuss what Japanese characters it implies. (1 Points, due Aug 25) 2 Response Paper #2: In your words, how did Japan’s natural setting impact its developments? (2 points, due Aug 28)</p>
3	Sept. 1 Sept. 3	<p>TUESDAY: Chinese Civilization in Japan 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. 2 and 3.</p> <p>Assignments</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper #3: What were Confucian view of Buddhism In Japan? (2 points, due Sept 4) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA
4	Sept. 8 Sept. 10	<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 Diary of a Noblewoman.</i> Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 3-4. “The <i>Shōen</i> System” *</p> <p>Assignments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper #4: Please analyze the structure of the Shoen. (2 points, due Sept 11) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA </p>
5	Sept 15 Sept 17	<p>TUESDAY: Rise of Samurai THURSDAY: Presentations on Heian Japan</p> <p>READINGS Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Chap.3. Seidensticker, trans. <i>The Diary of a Noblewoman.</i> Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 4. “Oligarchy, Shared Rulership, and Power Blocs” *</p> <p>Assignments <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper #5: Who ruled Japan? (2 points, due Sept 18) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA </p>
6	Sept 22 Sept 24	<p>TUESDAY: Discussions and Review THURSDAY: First Exam</p>
7	Sept. 29 Oct 1	<p>TUESDAY: The Kamakura Shogunate THURSDAY: Kamakura Buddhism</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Chap. 4. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 4 & 5. “Warriors, Warlords, and Domains” *</p> <p>Assignment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper # 6: Refer to Goseibai Shikimoku, please discuss the purpose of the Shogun. (2 points, due Oct 2) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA </p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
8	Oct 6 Oct 8	<p>TUESDAY: Ashikaga Japan THURSDAY: Samurai Culture</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Chap. 5. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 5-6. “<u>Medieval Arts and Aesthetics</u>” *</p> <p>Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper #7: How did Sōryō System impact Japan’s development? (2 points, due Oct 9) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA
9	Oct. 13 Oct. 15	<p>TUESDAY: Women & Family & Peasants & Townspeople in Medieval Japan THURSDAY: Legends of Samurai</p> <p>READINGS: Totman, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i>, Chap. 5. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 5-6. “Gender Relations in the Age of Violence” *</p> <p>Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper #8: Discuss gender relations in Medieval Japan. (2 points, due Oct 16) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA
10	Oct. 20 Oct. 22	<p>TUESDAY: Review THURSDAY: Second Exam</p>
11	Oct. 27 Oct. 29	<p>TUESDAY: Restoration of Order THURSDAY: Early Contact with the West</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. 7. “A Whole New World” *</p> <p>Assignments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Response Paper #9: In foreigners’ eyes, what was the most distinct feature of Japan? (2 points, due Oct 30) 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA
12	Nov 3 Nov 5	<p>TUESDAY: Early Tokugawa THURSDAY: Tokugawa Society</p>

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
		<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. 8-9. “Thought, Education, and Popular Literacies in Early Modern Japan” *</p> <p>Assignments 1. Response Paper #10: Read Laws of Military Households (Buke Shohatto), discuss what shogun’s purpose were. (2 points, due Nov 6). 2. Discussion/Quiz TBA</p>
13	Nov 10 Nov 12	<p>TUESDAY: Tokugawa Culture THURSDAY: Presentations on Samurai I</p> <p>READINGS: Mikiso Hane and Louis Perez, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey.</i>, Chap. 7. Varley, <i>Japanese Culture</i>, Chap. 7. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 8.</p>
14	Nov. 17 Nov. 19	<p>TUESDAY: Presentations on Samurai II THURSDAY: Review</p> <p>READINGS: Totman, <i>Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey</i> , Chap. 8 (start). Varley, <i>Japanese Culture</i>, Chap. 8. Lu, ed., <i>Japan: A Documentary History</i>, Chap. 9.</p>
15	Nov. 24 Nov. 26	Thanksgiving, no class.
16	Dec. 1 Dec. 4	<p>TUESDAY: Third Exam THURSDAY: Discussions</p>
Final Essay	Dec 9	Essay Due