

KYOTO CONSORTIUM FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic Year: 2009 - 2010 Semester: Fall

Course Title: Introduction to Japanese Civilization

Instructor : Ayako Kano

Number of meetings per week: 2x90 minutes = 3 hours/week

Course Description:

What are the main features of Japanese civilization, in what contexts did they develop, and how do they function in today's world? What do contemporary Japanese people think of their own culture and tradition? What are some of the important debates and controversies about Japanese history and society? This is an introductory course which includes a historical survey and topical discussions of Japan today. The course will cover Japanese history from the stone age to today, and will introduce students to the cultural, intellectual, social, political, and economic developments of each period. There will be frequent use of audio-visual material and field trips to supplement the coursework.

Requirements:

Weekly readings and discussions.

Two quizzes.

One take home final (two essay questions).

Textbooks:

Paul Varley, Japanese Culture, 4th ed. (Honolulu: U of Hawai'i P, 2000).

ISBN-10: 0824821521

ISBN-13: 978-0824821524

Please note: earlier editions are not acceptable. Please order the 4th edition.

Other readings will be available as handouts or as PDFs.

Additional Comments:

A partial list of additional readings:

1. Dower, John W. "Introduction. In Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II. New York: W. W. Norton, 1999, pp. 19-30. [12]
2. Gluck, Carol. "Severed History: The Beginning of 'The Postwar,' 1945-47." In Postwar Japan as History, ed. Andrew Gordon. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993, pp. 66-69 [4]
3. "The Seventeen Article Constitution." In Sources of Japanese History, vol. 1, ed. John David Lu. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974, pp. 20-23. [4]
4. Selections from Marian Ury and Robert Borgen trans. "Readable Japanese Mythology: Selections from Nihon shoki and Kojiki." in Journal of the Associations of Teachers of Japanese 24. 1 (April 1990): pp. 65-73; pp. 81-87. [17]
5. Morris, Ivan, trans. The Pillow Book of Sei Shônagon. 2 vols. New York: Columbia UP, 1967, vol. 1: pp. 1-19 and pp. 266-68; vol. 2: pp. 1-25 and 193-96. [47]
6. LaFleur, William R. "Social Death, Social Birth." In Liquid Life: Abortion and Buddhism in Japan. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1992, pp. 30-43. [14]
7. Zeami. "Atsumori." In Japanese Nô Dramas. Trans. Royall Tyler. New York: Penguin, 1992, pp. 37-48. [12]
8. Chikamatsu Monzaemon. "The Courier for Hell." In Major Plays of Chikamatsu. Trans. Donald Keene. New York: Columbia UP, 1990, pp. 161-194. [34]
9. Fukuzawa Yukichi. "On De-Asianization" (1885). The Meiji Japan Through Contemporary Sources. pp. 129-133. [5]
10. Mori Ogai. "Maihime (The Dancing Girl)". Trans. Richard Bowring. Monumenta Nipponica 30. 2 (1975), pp. 151-166. [16]
11. Hayashi Fumiko. "Vagabond's Song." Trans. Elizabeth Hanson. To Live and To Write: Selections by Japanese Women Writers 1913-1938. Ed. Yukiko Tanaka. Seattle: Seal Press, 1987, pp. 105-125. [21]
12. Henshall, Kenneth G. "Part One: The Essentials of Society: Men and Women." Dimensions of Japanese Society: Gender, Margins and Mainstream. New York: St. Martin's, 1999, pp. 1-47; pp. 183-195 (notes). [47+13]
13. Henshall, "Part Two: On the Fringes of Society: Minorities and Other Marginals" pp. 48-107; pp. 195-208. [60+14]