

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Introduction to premodern Japanese History and Culture - 46105

Last update 28-07-2017

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: asian studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Danny Orbach

Coordinator Email: dannyorbach@gmail.com

Coordinator Office Hours: Thursday, 14:00-15:00

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Danny Orbach

Course/Module description:

This course is a survey of premodern Japanese history and culture, from the sixth century to the Meiji Restoration of 1868.

Course/Module aims:

To introduce the history and culture of traditional Japan

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

To have a deeper understanding of premodern Japanese history, the basic assumptions underlying traditional Japanese culture, and the interaction between Japan and the wider East Asian sphere. In addition, the students will gain insights on fundamental issues of state formation out of tribal and feudal roots.

Attendance requirements(%):

No attendance requirements

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: front lectures with movies, audio and video clips

Course/Module Content:

- 1. Origins: The Beginning of Documented Japanese History*
- 2. Buddhism, Confucianism and the Early Emperor System*
- 3. The Nara Period and the Quest for Centralization*
- 4. The Heian Period: Classical Japan at its Heyday*
- 5. Rise of the Samurai and the Gempei War*
- 6. The Horse and the Snake: The Kamakura Shogunate*
- 7. Rebellious Emperor, Unfaithful General: The Kenmu Restoration and the Muromachi Period*

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8. *The Golden Pavilion: Society, Art and Culture in the Muromachi Period*
 9. *The Country at War*
 10. *A Reluctant Nightingale: The Age of Unification*
 11. *A Tale of Four Estates: Politics, Government and Society in the Edo Period*
 12. *the Edo Period: Culture, Literature and Religion*
 13. *Storm Clouds: The Nineteenth Century Crisis*
 14. *Some Final Thoughts*

Required Reading:

Our textbook will be *Japan Emerging*, edited by Karl Friday. We will also read other articles, as well as original literary works in translation from Donald Keene's anthology of Japanese literature.

For details, see the Hebrew Syllabus above.

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 100 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 0 %

Project work 0 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

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