



## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

## *Introduction to premodern Japanese History and Culture - 46105*

*Last update 14-09-2021*

*HU Credits: 4*

*Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)*

*Responsible Department: Asian Studies*

*Academic year: 0*

*Semester: 1st Semester*

*Teaching Languages: Hebrew*

*Campus: Mt. Scopus*

*Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. DAN SHERER*

*Coordinator Email: [Dan.Sherer@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:Dan.Sherer@mail.huji.ac.il)*

*Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 14:00-16:00*

---

Teaching Staff:

Dr. DAN SHERER

Course/Module description:

*This course is a survey of premodern Japanese history and culture, from pre-history to the Meiji Restoration of 1868. Students will learn the broad outlines of Japanese history and also see the sorts of primary sources used to explore Japan's history. The class will largely be organized chronologically, but each lecture will also have a thematic focus.*

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 describe the broad outlines of Premodern Japanese History.  
To recognize the key genres and works of art and literature from Premodern Japan.  
To break down the broad social and political changes in Premodern Japan as well as the changes which led to modern Japan.  
To determine how Premodern Japan related to China, Korea, other Asian countries, and Europe.*

Attendance requirements(%):

*Attendance mandatory, 80%*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Primarily lectures along with the use of videos and movies.*

Course/Module Content:

*רשימת נושאים / תכנית הלימודים בקורס:*

*Introduction*

*11/10 Introduction to the Course*

*Part 1 The Setting Pre-History, and Proto-History*

*14/10 The Geography of Japan and the Jomon and Yayoi Eras*

*Readings:*

*From Japan Emerging:*

*Barnes, "Japan's Natural Setting"*

*Aikens, "Origins of the Japanese People"*

---

”

### 18/10 Yayoi to Kofun and Himiko

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Barnes, *“The Emergence of Political Rulership and the State in Early Japan*

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:

*“Japan in the Chinese Dynastic Histories”*

### Part 2 The Creation of a Chinese Style State

#### 21/10 Yamato to Japan

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Fuqua, *“Centralization and State Formation in Sixth- and Seventh-Century Japan”*

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:

*“Civil Strife in the Late Sixth Century”*

*“Internal Strife in the Late Sixth Century”*

#### 25/10 The Rise of the Ritsuryō System

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Piggott, *“Defining ‘Ancient’ and ‘Classical’”*

Batten, *“Early Japan and the Continent”*

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:

*“Chinese-Style History and the Imperial Concept”*

*“The Reform Era”*

### Part 3 the Nara Period, 710 - 794

#### 28/10 The Nara Capital

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Bender, *“Emperor, Aristocracy, and the Ritsuryō State”*

#### 1/11 Nara Culture, History, and Buddhism

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Teeuwen, *“What Used to Be Called Shinto”*

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:

*“Chinese-Style History and the Imperial Concept”*

*“Buddhism and the State in Nara Japan”*

*“Legends Concerning Shinto Deities”*

#### Quiz 1 due 4/11

### Part 4 The Early Heian Period, 794 - 1068

#### 4/11 From strong emperors to the Fujiwara

---

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Adolphson, "Oligarchy, Shared Rulership, and Power Blocks"

8/11 *The Lives of the Nobility and Heian Culture*

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Borgen, "The Canons of Courtly Taste"

ממבחר הסיפור היפני:

"יוגאו: פרק מתוך סיפור גנג'י"

"פנקס הכר של סיי שונאגון"

11/11 *The Provinces and Buddhism*

Part 5 *The Late Heian Period, 1068 - 1185*

15/11 *Shoen and Insei*

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Segal, "The Shōen System"

18/11 *The Rise of the Warrior*

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Segal, "The Shōen System"

Friday, "The Dawn of the Samurai"

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:

"Taira and Minamoto"

22/11 *Taira no Kiyomori and the Gempei War*

ממבחר הסיפור היפני:

"מסיפורי הייקה"

"דין וחשבון על צריפי"

Quiz 2 Due 25/11

Part 6 *The Kamakura Period, 1185 - 1333*

25/11 *The Rise of the Kamakura Bakufu*

From Japan Emerging:

Goble, "The Kamakura Shogunate and the Beginnings of Warrior Power"

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:

"The Jōei Code"

29/11 *Kamakura Religion*

Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Bodiford, "Medieval Religion"

---

2/12 *The Mongol Invasion*

*Selections from In Little Need of Divine Intervention*

6/12 *The Fall of the Kamakura Shogunate and the Northern and Southern Courts*

Readings:

*From Japan Emerging:*

Segal, "Kamakura and the Challenges of Governance"

Goble, "Go-Daigō, Takauji, and the Muromachi Shogunate."

*From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:*

"Chronicle of Great Peace (Taiheiki): The Loyalist Heroes"

"Kitabatake Chikafusa and the Southern Court"

Part 7 *The Muromachi Period, 1336 - 1573*

9/12 *Ashikaga Yoshimitsu and the Peak of the Shogunate*

Readings:

*From Japan Emerging:*

Chance, "Medieval Arts and Aesthetics"

Segal, "The Medieval Economy"

*From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:*

"Zeami: Entering the Realm of Yūgen"

"Connecting the Arts Through One Intensity of Mind"

"The Nine Stages of the Nō in Order"

"The True Path to the Flower (Shikadōsho)"

"Kamo no Chōmei: Concerning Mysterious Beauty"

13/12 *Ashikaga Yoshimasa and the Decline of the Shogunate*

Quiz 3 Due 16/12

16/12 *The Sengoku Period*

Readings:

*From Japan Emerging:*

Eason, "Warriors, Warlords, and Domains"

*From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:*

"The Law of the Warrior Houses in the Age of War in the Provinces"

20/12 *The Unifiers: Nobunaga and Hideyoshi*

Readings:

*From Japan Emerging:*

Butler, "The Sixteenth-Century Reunification"

*From Sources of Japanese Tradition V1:*

"Oda Nobunaga"

"The Articles of 1570"

"The Disarmament of the Populace"

"Restrictions on Change of Status"

---

### 23/12 The Christian Century

#### Readings:

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V2:

"Alexandro Valignano's Japanese Mission Policy"

Willis, "Captain Jorge Álvares and Father Luís Fróis S.J.: Two Early Portuguese Descriptions of Japan and the Japanese" on Moodle

Part 8 The Edo Period, 1603 - 1867

### 27/12 The Early Tokugawa Period

#### Readings:

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V2:

"Ieyasu and the Founding of the Tokugawa Shogunate"

### 30/12 Edo Japan: The Warriors

#### Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Gainty, "The New Warriors"

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V2:

"The Debate over the Akō Vendetta"

### 3/1 Edo Japan: Peasants and Townsfolk

#### Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Walthall, "Peace Dividend"

Howell, "Urbanization, Trade, and Merchants"

Quiz 4 Due 14/1

### 6/1 Edo Thought and Popular Culture.

#### Readings:

From Japan Emerging:

Chance, "Ukiyo asobi"

Rubinger, "Thought, Education, and Popular Literacies in Early Modern Japan"

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V2:

"The Teachings of Zhu Xi Brought to Japan"

"Hayashi Razan"

ממבחר הסיפור היפני:

"עושה לוחות השנה"

"הדרך הצרה לאוקיו"

### 10/1 Rangaku and the Return of the West

#### Readings:

From Sources of Japanese Tradition V2:

"Dutch Learning"

"The Debate over Seclusion and Restoration"

### 13/1 The Black Ships and the Bakumatsu

---

Required Reading:

*Required Books:*

*Our main textbook will be Japan Emerging, edited by Karl Friday. The books that we will use in this course are:*

*Wm. Theodore de Bary et al., Sources of Japanese Tradition Volume 1*

*Wm. Theodore de Bary et al., Sources of Japanese Tradition Volume 2*

*Karl Friday, Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850*

Additional Reading Material:

*See Moodle2.*

Course/Module evaluation:

*End of year written/oral examination 60 %*

*Presentation 0 %*

*Participation in Tutorials 5 %*

*Project work 0 %*

*Assignments 0 %*

*Reports 0 %*

*Research project 0 %*

*Quizzes 35 %*

*Other 0 %*

Additional information:

*Changes may occur in the final reading list and order of classes.  
For the final list, please refer to the moodle2 platform.*