

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

The Japanese Warrior in War and Peace - 46155

Last update 15-09-2022

HU Credits: 2

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. DAN SHERER

Coordinator Email: Dan.Sherer@mail.huji.ac.il

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

Teaching Staff:

Dr. DAN SHERER

Course/Module description:

This Japanese warrior has become an international cultural figure, appearing in games, films, and books throughout the world. Books detailing “samurai” business management and ethics still sell. There are even samurai diet books. But who were these warriors, and what was their effect on the history of Japan?

Course/Module aims:

In this course will trace the history of the Japanese warrior by looking at the lives of 13 exemplary warriors.

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

*To analyze the role that warriors have played in Japanese history.
To identify the broad outlines of Japanese history until 1900.
To appraise the effect that war has had on society and the warriors themselves.
To learn to critically evaluate a wide variety of primary sources.
To recollect and debate major issues in the field of Japanese history.*

Attendance requirements(%):

Attendance mandatory, 80%

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

Course/Module Content:

*15/3 Introduction: Taira no Masakado
22/3 Taira no Kiyomori and the Rise of the Courtier Warrior
29/3 Hojo Masako and the Creation of Warrior Government
19/4 Takezaki Suenaga and the Mongol Invasion
3/5 Kusunoki Masashige and the Two Emperors
10/5 Ashikaga Yoshimitsu and the Apogee of the New Shogunate
17/5 Ashikaga Yoshimasa and the Sengoku Period
24/5 Oda Nobunaga and the Tenka
31/5 Toyotomi Hideyoshi and the Unification of the Realm
7/6 Miyamoto Musashi and the Problem of Legend
14/6 The Ako Roshi and their Bloody Revenge
21/6 Katsu Kokichi: A Late Edo Scoundrel*

28/6 Saigo Takamori and the End of Warrior Government

Required Reading:

Required Readings:

Our main textbook will be Japan Emerging, edited by Karl Friday. However, the bulk of our readings will be primary sources. The books that we will use in this course are:

Thomas Conlan, In Little Need of Divine Intervention: Takezaki Suenaga's Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan

William Theodore DeBarry, Sources of Japanese Tradition Volume 1

Karl Friday, Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850

Katsu Kokichi, Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai

**Donald Keene, Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavilion: The Creation of the Soul of Japan*

**Jeroen Lamers, The Chronicles of Lord Nobunaga*

**Judith Rabinovitch, Shōmon ki: the story of Masakado's rebellion*

**Luke Roberts, Performing the Great Peace: Political Space and Open Secrets in Tokugawa Japan*

Hiroaki Sato, Legends of the Samurai

**Shinoda Minoru, The Founding Of The Kamakura Shogunate, 1180-1185: With Selected Translations From The Azuma Kagami*

Burton Watson, The Tales of the Heike

*Books with a * are available free on the library website.*

Additional Reading Material:

See Moodle2.

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 16 %

Project work 31 %

Assignments 35 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 18 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

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