



# *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

## *Syllabus*

### *The Japanese Warrior in War and Peace - 46155*

*Last update 31-08-2023*

*HU Credits: 2*

*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, 13:30-15:30*

*Teaching Staff:*

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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:

*1) Taira no Masakado and the “Teeth and Claws” of the state (15/10)*

*Readings:*

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan, 471-1877: Pg 8-17*

*2) Taira no Kiyomori and the Rise of the Warrior-Courtier (22/10)*

*Readings:*

*Selections from Tales of the Heike (On Moodle)*

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### 3) Hōjō Masako and the Rise of Warrior Government (29/10)

#### Readings:

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan:*

*Civil War in the 1180s (pg. 28-31)*

*The Difficulty of Estimating Army Size (Pg. 31-32)*

*Go-Toba's Order to Chastise Hōjō Yoshitoki (Pg. 34-35)*

*Excerpt from the Chronicle of Jōkyū (Pg. 39-40)*

*Excerpt from the Baishōron Account of the Jōkyū War (Pg. 41-42)*

*Optional: Japan Emerging Chapter 18*

### 4) Takezaki Suenaga and the Mongol Invasion (5/11)

#### Readings:

*The Mongol Invasion Scrolls (Online at <http://digital.princeton.edu/mongol-scrolls/>)*  
(Read full text of scrolls)

### 5) Kusunoki Masashige and the Era of Northern and Southern Courts (12/11)

#### Readings:

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan:*

*Excerpts from Baishōron: (Pg. 122- 143)*

*"Kusunoki Masashige: A Guerilla of Unflinching Loyalty" and "Kō no Moronao: When a Warrior Falls in Love" in Legends of the Samurai (PDF on Moodle).*

*Optional: Japan Emerging Chapter 20*

### 6) Ashikaga Yoshimitsu and the Golden Age of the Muromachi Shogunate (19/11)

**SHORT PAPER #1 DUE**

#### Readings:

Von Verschuer, Charlotte. "Ashikaga Yoshimitsu's Foreign Policy 1398 to 1408 A.D.: A Translation from "Zenrin Kokuhōki," the Cambridge Manuscript." *Monumenta Nipponica* 62, no. 3 (2007): 261-97. (Journal on JSTOR [here](#))

### 7) Ashikaga Yoshimasa and the Collapse of the Muromachi Order (26/11)

#### Readings:

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan:*

*The Ashikaga Decline and the Ōnin War (1441-77) (pg. 179 - 192)*

*Optional: Japan Emerging, Chapter 22-23*

### 8) Oda Nobunaga and the Glory of Azuchi (3/12)

#### Readings:

*From The Chronicles of Lord Nobunaga (Online [Here](#))*

**Required Sections:**

*Initial Book, parts 7, 9, 10*

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*Book 1, parts 1-4*  
*Book 2, parts 4-5*  
*Book 4, part 5*  
*Book 6, part 2*  
*Book 8, part 4*  
*Book 9, parts 1, 6*  
*Book 11, part 13 (to page 299)*  
*Book 15, parts 25-35*

*Optional: Japan Emerging, Chapter 29*

*9) Toyotomi Hideyoshi and The Unification of Japan (17/12)*

*Readings:*

*Sources of Japanese Tradition Volume 1, 458-472 (PDF on Moodle).*

*10) Miyamoto Musashi (24/12)*

*Watch at least 40 minutes of Miyamoto Musashi Documentaries.*

*11) The Forty-Seven Ronin and the City of Edo (31/12)*

*Readings:*

*"The Forty-Seven Samurai: An Eyewitness Account, With Arguments" from Legends of the Samurai (PDF on Moodle).*

*Optional: Japan Emerging, chapter 34*

*12) Katsu Kokichi and Problems in the Warrior Class (7/1)*

*SHORT PAPER #2 DUE*

*Readings:*

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan:*

*Selections from Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai (Pg. 280-290).*

*13) Saigo Takamori and the End of the Samurai (14/1)*

*Readings:*

*Samurai and the Warrior Culture of Japan:*

*Abolishing the Samurai (Pg. 300 - 308)*

*Final Paper due 14/2*

*Required Reading:*

*Required Readings:*

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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.

#### Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 40 %

Active Participation / Team Assignment 10 %

Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports / Forum / Simulation / others 50 %

#### 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.