



CIEE Kyoto, Japan

Course name:	Japanese Feudal History
Course number:	HIST 3001 KYJA
Programs offering course:	Ancient and Modern Japan
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

The land-owning feudal ruling class is both blamed for stagnation of Japanese society and revered as the core cultural traditions. This course covers Medieval and Early Modern Japan examining major societal developments, while evaluating the applicability of the Marxist concept of feudalism to the Japanese historical context.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will be able to:

- Describe the major agencies, institutions, actors and milestone events in late feudal Japan, and analyze the power dynamics between them in Tokugawa politics, economic development and social trends.
- Explain the major economic, political and social changes brought about by the rise of the Tokugawa regime and apply it to the difficulties that the Tokugawa regime faced when it had to carry out modernization reforms.
- Analyze the major factors behind the decay and decline of feudalism in Late Tokugawa period and the rise of modernity in Japan.
- Evaluate the reasons for Japan's shift towards modernization reforms in the Late Tokugawa period and the attractiveness for modernity in all sectors of Japanese society, government and businesses. Analyze it in economic, technological or social mobilizational terms.

Course Prerequisites

Previous completion of an introductory course related to history / Japanese history is recommended.

Methods of Instruction

This course will incorporate lectures, discussions, and readings. Socratic teaching methods are implemented, the classes/tutorials will also encourage debates between class participants. Videos and Youtube snippets will also be featured in the classes. The lecturer will also incorporate field trip/s to an appropriate museum and/or heritage sites into the classes. Lecturer will also introduce material culture in the class for touch, feel, and sensory experiences with historical artefacts.

Assessment and Final Grade

Class Participation	20%
Journal	20%
Critical Essays (x2)	20%



Presentation	20%
Final Exam	20%

Course Requirements

Class Participation

You are expected to follow CIEE's attendance and participation policies as outlined in the CIEE Academic Manual for students.

Journal

You will be expected to post a short journal entry of 125 to 150 words to the online discussion group by 11:59pm about the readings assigned that day. You must also respond to at least two posts made by two different classmates to generate discussion online. These posts and responses will aid in the in-class discussion to be held the following day.

Presentation

You will perform an in-class presentation on a topic of your choosing, which relates to materials of the course. The presentation should not exceed 15 minutes. Depending on class enrollment you will conduct your research either individually or as a group. You must submit a proposal and have your topic approved by the instructor by Week 6. The proposal should be 750 to 1000 words and include (1) Topic you will present on; (2) How it is relevant to the course; (3) The critical viewpoints that you hope to discover through research and share with the class; and (4) An outline of how your presentation will be structured. Depending on the nature of their project, students may be required to use out-of-class time to make field visits, or to explore library and other resources. Students will be advised on their project proposal in terms of how to organize such out-of-class work.

Critical Essays (x2)

You will complete two critical essays of 1000 to 1200 words each. Your essays must analyze key concepts explored in class, and must follow conventions of academic writing. Each essay is worth 10% of your grade.

Final Exam

You will write short essays in answer to three questions prompted by the instructor. Each answer must be 500 to 600 words (total word count of 1500 to 1800 words). Your answers must demonstrate sufficient understanding of key concepts explored in class and must follow conventions of academic writing.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 The Heian Period

1.1 Actors and Institution

Description: Discuss and analyze the rise of aristocratic culture.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp.



20-50

Homework: Journal (Analyze the role of a major political actor amongst the Heian aristocratic elite)

1.2 Heian society and the economy

Description: Discuss and analyze Heian society.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett., pp. 51-79

Homework: Journal (Analyze the how major political institutions share power or/and compete amongst themselves)

1.3 Aristocracy and the ruling class

Description: Discuss and analyze the activities of the ruling class in Japan

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp. 375 to 396

Homework: Journal (Analyze the achievements made by the aristocracy in Heian society/economy/political system)

Week 2 Aristocracy and the Arts

2.1 Buddhism-inspired art and culture

Description: Analyze Buddhist influence on Heian culture.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp. 409-448

Homework: Journal (Analyze Buddhist influence on one particular Heian art form)

2.2 Tang and Heian art forms

Description: Analyze various art forms in the Heian period and associate them with Tang Chinese culture.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp. 390-419

Homework: Journal (Analyze how Heian-era arts and cultures have influenced Japanese culture today)

2.3 Ceramics and material culture

Description: Analyze the prototypical industries that produce material goods like ceramics



and pottery.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp. 420-448

Homework: Journal (Analyze an example of Heian material culture for clues on social class differentiation)

Week 3 Foreign relations

3.1 Tang China

Description: Analyze Heian Japan's relations with its East Asian neighbors.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp. 80-96

Homework: Journal (Apply ideas of realism and economic regionalism to explain Heian Japan's trade with its neighbors)

3.2 Korea

Description: Analyze Heian Japan's relations with Korea.

Homework: Journal (Analyze how Japan-Korean relations have evolved through the years)

3.3 Others

Description: Analyze Heian Japan's relations with its region.

Homework: Journal (Analyze how Japan's premodern relations with regional countries affected its trade)

Week 4 Rise of the Warriors

4.1 Origins of the Warrior

Description: Analyze why samurai warriors displaced aristocrats in the effective rule and control of Japan.

Readings due: Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett, pp. 644-652

Homework: Journal (Analyze how the samurais enforced military rule)

4.2 Samurai weapons and their aesthetics

Description: Analyze why samurai warriors placed so much premium on the aesthetics of their weaponry.



Homework: Journal (Analyze the importance of aesthetics in the way of the warrior)

4.3 The way of the warrior

Description: Analyze the code that samurai warriors live by.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the importance of the rules that governs warrior behavior in Japan)

Week 5 Unification and the Rise of the Tokugawa Regime.

5.1 Unification and its impact

Description: Analyze how the Tokugawa regime achieved the unification of Japan and why centralized rule was preferred.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 1 The Tokugawa Polity

Homework: Journal (Analyze how military rule led to the 'Great Peace' and political stability)

5.2 The Tokugawa institutions

Description: Analyze the power structure of the Tokugawa regime.

Homework: Journal (Analyze how the Tokugawa regime used its institutions to instill military rule.)

5.3 The Tokugawa society

Description: Analyze the power structure of the Tokugawa regime.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 2 Social and Economic Transformation

Homework: Journal (Analyze how Tokugawa society was organized in terms of socioeconomic classes.)

Week 6 Political Economy of Tokugawa Japan

6.1 Social Transformations

Description: Analyze how society transformed when there was peace under military rule.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 2 Social and Economic Transformations

DUE: Critical Essay 1

Homework: Journal (Analyze the importance of social classes in the Tokugawa era)

6.2 Economic Transformations

Description: Analyze the major institutions involved in running the Japanese economy and



the rise of prominent merchant houses.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the importance of the rice economy in the Tokugawa era)

6.3 Political Transformations

Description: Identify and analyze the major power centers in Tokugawa Japan.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the importance of the samurai as a bureaucratic structure in the Tokugawa era)

Week 7 Arts and Culture During the Tokugawa Period

7.1 Export ceramics and porcelain

Description: Analyze the features of Tokugawa-era porcelain making industry.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the importance of pottery-making as a prototypical industry)

7.2 Japanese tea ceremony

Description: Analyze the unique features of the Japanese tea ceremony.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 3 The Intellectual World of the Late Tokugawa Japan

Homework: Journal (Analyze the significance of the tea ceremony for the samurais)

7.3 Other art forms during the Tokugawa period

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa art forms.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 7 Cultural Transformation sub section

Homework: Journal (Analyze the differences between arts and cultures in the Heian and Tokugawa eras)

Week 8 Foreign Relations

8.1 Ming and Qing China

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 1 The Margins of the Japanese and Japan sub section

Homework: Journal (Analyze the international relations between Tokugawa Japan and Ming/Qing China in realist and constructivist terms)

8.2 The West

Description: Analyze how Tokugawa interacts with the West.



Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 4 The Overthrow of the Tokugawa

Homework: Journal (Analyze the international relations between Tokugawa Japan and the West in realist and constructivist terms)

8.3 Korea and Southeast Asia

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 1 The Margins of the Japanese and Japan sub section.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the international relations between Tokugawa Japan and East Asia in realist and constructivist terms)

Week 9 Crisis and Reforms: Late Tokugawa Period and the Rise of Early Modern Japan

9.1 Social, political and economic decline and decay

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Homework: Journal (Analyze the factors that led to the overthrow of the Tokugawa regime)

9.2 Late Tokugawa Reforms

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 5 The Samurai Revolution

Homework: Journal (Analyze the role of the samurais in Japan's modernization)

9.3 Meiji Restoration

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 6 Participation and Protest

Homework: Journal (Analyze how Meiji Restoration was a bloodless revolution)

Week 10 Learning from The West

10.1 Commodore Perry and the West

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 7 Social, Economic and Cultural Transformation

Homework: Journal (Analyze how elite Meiji Japanese thinkers view Westernization and Modernization, especially Fukuzawa Yukichi)



10.2 Empire and domestic order

Description: Analyze the unique features of Tokugawa diplomacy.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 8 Empire and domestic order

Homework: Journal (Analyze the features of Japan's empire-building efforts as a late imperialist)

10.3 Iwakura Mission

Description: Analyze how the Iwakura mission observed the West.

Homework: Journal (Analyze how the Iwakura mission was received in the West.)

Week 11 Political Economy of Early Meiji Japan

11.1 Fieldtrip

For example, The Museum of Kyoto (exact location and contents of the field trip are TBD)

11.2 Proto-industrialization and early industrialization

Description: Analyze how modernization took off in the economic and industrial sectors.

DUE: Critical Essay 2

Readings due: McClain, James L., Chapter 7 Toward an industrial future.

Homework: Journal (Analyze how industrialization took off in Meiji Japan.)

11.3 External trade

Description: Analyze how external trade was conducted in Meiji Japan.

Readings due: GRIPS, Chapter 5 (online)

Homework: Journal (Identify the major trading partners of Meiji Japan and analyze how it affected their bilateral relations.)

Week 12 Foreign relations

12.1 North America and Europe

Description: Analyze how Meiji Japan conducted its relations with foreign powers.

Homework: Journal (Identify and analyze the major achievements of Meiji Japan's diplomacy and led to the rise of a great power.)

12.2 China and Korea

Description: Analyze how Meiji Japan interacted with its neighbors.



Readings due: McClain, James L., Chapter 9 The acquisition of empire.

Homework: Journal (Identify and analyze the major achievements of Meiji Japan's diplomacy with its periphery and how it led to the rise of a regional power. Comparative perspectives are welcomed)

12.3 Ryukyu Kingdom, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and Others

Description: Analyze how Meiji Japan interacted with other East Asian states beyond its immediate neighbours.

Homework: Journal (Identify and analyze Meiji Japan's dealing with Southeast Asia, how was it different from Northeast Asia?)

Week 13 Meiji arts and culture

13.1 Modernization in arts and culture

Description: Analyze how Meiji Japan developed its modern arts and culture.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 7 Social, Economic and Cultural Transformation

Homework: Journal (Analyze how Western and/or modern techniques influenced Meiji Japan's art scene)

13.2 Meiji Japan's Influence on the West

Description: Analyze how Meiji Japan influenced the West through its arts and culture.

Readings due: Gordon, Andrew, Chapter 7 Social, Economic and Cultural Transformation

Homework: Journal (Analyze the phenomenon of Japonisme)

13.3 Preparation for debates and final presentations

Prepare for debates and final presentations

Week 14 Fieldtrip and Presentations

14.1 Fieldtrip

For example, Kyoto Municipal Museum of Art (exact location and contents of the fieldtrip are TBD)

14.2 Presentations

14.3 Presentations

Week 15 Meiji art forms



15.1 Class Debate 1:

Debate motion: It was essential for Japan to follow Fukuzawa Yukichi's vision of leaving Asia and joining the West. Class divided into teams and take up proposition and opposition sides in the debate.

15.2 Class Debate 2:

Debate motion: The Meiji Restoration in Japan was really a bloodless revolution. Class divided into teams and take up proposition and opposition sides in the debate.

15.3 Final Exam

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

Farris, William Wayne. *Heavenly Warriors*. Harvard University Press, 1996. Or latest version in 2018 [refer to Harvard University Press website: <http://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674387041>]

Gordon, Andrew. *A Modern History of Japan From Tokugawa Times to the Present Third Edition*. Oxford University Press, 2013. Or latest 2018 version [OUP Version: <https://global.oup.com/ushe/product/a-modern-history-of-japan-9780199930159?cc=cn&lang=en&>]

Hall, John Whitney. *Japan: From Prehistory to Modern Times*. Tuttle Publishing, 2012. Or latest 2018 version [Kinokuniya website: <https://thailand.kinokuniya.com/bw/9784805312216>]

Hall, John Whitney, Marius B. Jansen, Madoka Kanai, and Denis Twitchett. *The Cambridge History of Japan Vol. 2 Heian Japan*. Cambridge University Press, 2008. Or latest 2018 version.

McClain, James L., *Japan A Modern History*. WW Norton and Company Inc., 2002. [Catalogued at https://trove.nla.gov.au/work/22258066?q&sort=holdings+desc&_id=1539568418267&versionId=41203916]

Online Resources (free resources)

Benskin, Elizabeth. The Arts of Japan. Smithsonian Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, 2005, [//archive.asia.si.edu/explore/teacherResources/ArtsofJapan.pdf](http://archive.asia.si.edu/explore/teacherResources/ArtsofJapan.pdf). Accessed on 11 Oct 2018.

City of Kamakura Kanagawa Prefecture. The Kamakura Period (1185-1333). City of Kamakura, Undated, www.city.kamakura.kanagawa.jp/sekaiisan/documents/jh_booklet_e02.pdf website. Accessed on 11 October 2018.



Friday, Karl. Once and Future Warriors The Samurai. The Association of Asian Studies, Undated, [//aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/EAA-Archives/10/3/641.pdf](http://aas2.asian-studies.org/EAA/EAA-Archives/10/3/641.pdf) website. Accessed on 11 Oct 2018.

GRIPS, Chapter 5 The Industrialization and Global Integration of Meiji Japan. GRIPS, Undated, www.grips.ac.jp/forum-e/pdf_e01/eastasia/ch5.pdf. Accessed on 11 Oct 2018.

Honjo, Eijiro. The Last Fifteen Years of the Tokugawa Shogunate. Kyoto University Research Information Repository Kurenai, 1934, [//repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2433/125247/1/ecb0092_016.pdf](http://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2433/125247/1/ecb0092_016.pdf). Accessed on 11 Oct 2018.

Horie, Hideichi. Revolution and Reform in Meiji Restoration. Kurenai (Kyoto University Research Information Repository), 1952, [//repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2433/125396/1/ecb0221_023.pdf](http://repository.kulib.kyoto-u.ac.jp/dspace/bitstream/2433/125396/1/ecb0221_023.pdf). Accessed on 11 Oct 2018, pp. 23-34.

Howell, David L.. Japan. Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World edited by Peter N. Stearns, 2008, [//international.uiowa.edu/sites/international.uiowa.edu/files/file_uploads/japan_in_tokugawa_period_and_modernity.pdf](http://international.uiowa.edu/sites/international.uiowa.edu/files/file_uploads/japan_in_tokugawa_period_and_modernity.pdf) [originally an excerpt from the 2008 Japan entry of the Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern World and from the April 2014 OECD Observer]. Accessed on 11 October 2018.

Meade, Ruselle. Popular Science and Personal Endeavour in Early Meiji Japan: the Case of Hatsumei Kiji. *Histora Scientiarum* Vol. 26-2, 2017, [//orca.cf.ac.uk/98650/1/02_04_Meade_finish_ma.pdf](http://orca.cf.ac.uk/98650/1/02_04_Meade_finish_ma.pdf), pp. 77-92. Accessed on 11 October 2018.

National Gallery of Art, Washington. Edo Art in Japan 1615-1868 Teaching Program. National Gallery of Art, 1998, www.nga.gov/content/dam/ngaweb/Education/learning-resources/teaching-packets/pdfs/edo-teach.pdf. Accessed on 11 Oct 2018.

Oxford University Press (OUP). Chapter 15 Japan Under the Shoguns Unit 2 The Asia-Pacific world-Option Japan Under the Shoguns. Oxford Big Ideas Humanities 8 Victorian Curriculum, undated, www.oup.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0026/58193/Chapter-15-Japan-under-the-shoguns.pdf. Accessed on 11 Oct 2018, pp. 457-495