**Course Description**

In this course, students will have the opportunity to critically review the development and processes observed in regard to Japan’s role in the contemporary world setting. We will discuss Japan’s progression from a medieval hierarchy to a world class participant in the international stage among the fraternity of nations. Students will have the opportunity to review Japan’s role in the world’s stage during turbulent war and post war times to the modern day.

**Learning Objectives**

- Develop a critical understanding of Japan’s progression through the ages and its standing on the world stage today.
- Develop a critical understanding of the historical milestones in respect to Japanese history
- Evaluate Japan’s role in the modern world
- Acquire skills to evaluate and situate historical events as a researcher
- Develop collaboration and communication skills for students through group projects and oral presentations

**Course Prerequisites**

Successful completion of an introductory level history course – preferably Japanese or Asian history – or equivalent knowledge through self-study.

**Methods of Instruction**

The course will be taught using lectures, seminars, case study discussions, group presentations, and field trips to local sites of historical interest. Classroom activities will involve group work and critical discussion groups, considering and debating on key transformative issues Japan faced to arrive at its current standing on the world stage.

**Assessment and Final Grade**

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essays</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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**Course Requirements**
Participation and Attendance
Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and unexcused absences may result in a lower grade for any affected CIEE course. Unexcused absences from 10 to 20% of the course will result in a reduction of your final grade. Unexcused absence from 20% or more of the course may result in failure of the course. Points may also be deducted for tardiness. Please see the CIEE Academic Manual for more information on CIEE’s attendance policies. Students are expected to actively participate in class. This includes preparing in advance, engaging in discussions, and being attentive and responsive.

Essays
Students will be required to submit two 375-word essays and at least two blog entries of 375 words.

Class Presentation
Students will be expected to collaborate and organize a 15-minute long class presentation on a topic of their choice, subject to instructor approval. Students must use both in-class and out-of-class scholarly materials and field research.

Final Paper
Students must write a Final Paper on a topic of their choice, subject to instructor approval. The paper must be at least 2,000 words and use both in-class and out-of-class scholarly materials.

Final Exam
Closed books exam covering topics covered throughout the class.

Weekly Schedule
NOTE: The following schedule and assignments are subject to change.

Week 1:
1.1 Course Introduction;
   Historical overview of the beginnings of Japan’s social organization.

Week 2:
2.1 Isolated Japan
2.2 Isolated Japan (2)
   Due: Essay 1 of 4
2.3 The West knocks on Japan’s door
2.4 Field trip to a history museum or historical site

**Week 3:**
3.1 The Samurai class’s transition in the Meiji Period  

3.2 The Russo-Japanese War  
Due: Essay 2 of 4

3.3 Transitioning from the Meiji to the Taisho Era

**Week 4:**
4.1 Japan during the First World War  

4.2 Japan’s Expansion into Asia  
Due: Essay 3 of 4

4.3 Japan in the Second World War, 1941 - 1945

**Week 5:**
5.1 Post-war Japan and the Allied Occupation  
Due: Essay 4 of 4

5.2 Rise and fall of Japan’s post-war economy

5.3 Field trip to history museum or historical site  
Due: Final Paper

**Week 6:**
6.1 Japan in the 21st Century

6.2 Due: Presentations

6.3 Final Exam

**Course Materials**


