

**HISTORY 2605E**  
**Survey of Japanese History**  
**Fall/Winter 2022-23**  
**Thursdays 2:30-4:30**  
**Course delivery in-person**

**Instructor: Dr. Carl Young**

Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00-2:00 PM

Department of History, Office: Lawson Hall 2225

Email: cyoung73@uwo.ca

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**This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.**

**Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line asynchronously (eg., posted on OWL for students to view at their convenience). The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

**Course Description:**

A survey of Japan's political, social, economic, and cultural development from prehistoric times to the present. Themes will include the foundation of the early aristocratic state, warrior regimes, the rise of the Japanese empire in the 19th and 20th centuries, and Japan's recovery and economic development after World War II.

**Course Syllabus:**

The purpose of this course is to investigate the development of Japan and its interactions with the outside world from prehistory to the present day. Although much of the focus of the course will be political and economic, we will also look at how these factors interacted with cultural and intellectual developments. Being an island nation off the eastern coast of Asia has permitted Japan to receive many influences from the continent, but has also isolated it at the same time, allowing it to develop unique political, social, cultural and economic structures.

Japan first consolidated itself as an aristocratic state in the 6<sup>th</sup> century CE. Between the mid-12<sup>th</sup> to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries CE, Japan was ruled by a variety of military regimes that marked its politics, society and culture. The Tokugawa military regime, which ruled Japan between 1600 and 1868, restricted contact with the outside world. Western powers eventually broke through this self-imposed isolation in the 1850's and Japan was forcibly integrated into the new economic and political order imposed on the world by the European powers in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Although starting from a position of disadvantage, Japan managed over a period of 50 years to become the first industrialised nation in Asia. It not only succeeded in maintaining its autonomy in the new international system, but began establishing a new empire in the Asia-Pacific, making it the only non-Western imperial power in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. By the end of World War I, Japan was considered one of the Great Powers, essential to the world balance of power. However, Japan's ongoing campaigns of expansion in Asia in the 1930's would eventually lead

to disaster in World War II and the end of Japan's overseas empire. The legacy of this period is still a major part of Japan's national experience, however, and set the foundation for its even stronger success in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this time as an economic rather than a military power.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Provide accurate information about the processes, people, and events behind the development of different regimes in the Japanese archipelago from prehistoric times to the present
- Describe the importance and role of Japan in the international system in East Asia
- Analyze primary sources and reveal what they show about the events, people, values, and society they come from
- Synthesise primary and secondary sources to produce a research paper

**Course Materials:**

Mikiso Hane and Louis G. Perez, *Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, Westview Press, 2015

Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan (Fourth Edition)*, Oxford University Press, 2019

*The Diary of Lady Murasaki* (Richard Bowring, translator), Penguin Books, 1996

*The Book of Five Rings: A Classic Text on the Japanese Way of the Sword* (Thomas Cleary, translator), Shambhala Publications, 1993)—this edition includes two works, *The Book of Five Rings* (p. 3-92) and *The Family Traditions on the Art of War* (p. 95-164)

James L. Huffman, *Modern Japan: A History in Documents (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*, Oxford University Press, 2011]

**Methods of Evaluation:**

Term Paper (around 10 pages)	20%
Book Review (5-8 pages)	15%
2 Source Document Assignments (7.5% each; 3-6 pages)	15%
Mid-term Exam	20%

Final Exam	20%
Quizzes	<u>10%</u>
	100%

The term paper will be a research paper on topics of your choice in the history of Japan. Suggested topics will be posted on the course OWL site early in the beginning of the second semester. The suggested length of the paper is approximately 10 pages. The paper will be due on **March 9**.

The book review will be based on **one** of two choices (*The Diary of Lady Murasaki* or *The Book of Five Rings*) assigned in the first semester and will be due on **Nov. 10**. Students will be required to set out the main themes of the book, referring to the book with examples showing how the authors bring out their themes. They will also comment as to what the books reveal about the characters involved and their ideas and the book's contribution to better understanding related historical events and Japanese society and culture at the time the books were written.

The two source document assignments will be based on documents from *Modern Japan: A History in Documents*. Questions based on the documents will be posted on the course OWL site and students will choose **one** question and write a 4-6 page analysis of the documents relating to the question for each assignment. The first source document assignment on themes from the Tokugawa period to the late Meiji period will be due on **Dec. 1**. The second source document assignment on themes from the late Meiji period to the present will be due on **March 30**.

There will be two exams in the course, one in the December exam period covering topics from the first semester and the other in the April exam period covering topics from the second semester. The exams will be made up of a combination of multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions.

There are four scheduled quizzes throughout the course. These will be composed of between 15- 25 multiple-choice questions each and will be held in the first 10 minutes of class for which they are scheduled. They will mainly be based on the keywords for the lectures and the readings that are on the course OWL site.

If you should have any questions pertaining to the structure or content of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me during my office hours, or by phone or e-mail to make an appointment.

## **Lateness and Absence Policy**

The term paper, book review assignment, and the source document assignments will be accepted late. However, there will be a penalty of 2% a day that will be applied for every day the assignments are late, including weekends and holidays. In case of family emergency or illness, penalties can be removed from assignments by undergoing the process laid out in the next paragraph relating to academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds. If you have missed class, try and get notes from another member of the class.

Students are reminded that academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate**. This form can be accessed at the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students, this is located at SSC 2105) Further details on this policy can be found at the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

If you do hand in your assignment late, please hand it in to the wooden drop-off box outside the History Department office at Lawson Hall. The staff will pick up the assignment and stamp it with a date and time and put it in my mailbox. This provides greater security and clarity for the handing in of the assignment. Please avoid shoving the paper under my office door if at all possible, because it could get lost.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

It is expected that proper footnoting and referencing will be used for all the papers of this course. Plagiarism is a serious offence and can bring forth severe academic penalties. Please refer to the University calendar and to the department website for more details. More detailed information is provided at the end of this course outline.

## **Course Schedule and Readings:**

Hane & Perez= Mikiso Hane and Louis G. Perez, *Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Westview Press, 2015

Gordon= Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan* (Fourth Edition), Oxford University Press, 2014

Huffman= James L. Huffman, *Modern Japan: A History in Documents* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Oxford University Press, 2011

**Sept. 8—Introduction**

**Sept. 15-- Early Japan**

Hane & Perez, p. 1-56

**Sept. 22 & 29—Culture, Society, and Politics in Heian Japan**

Hane and Perez, p. 57-76; *The Diary of Lady Murasaki*

**Oct. 6 —The Rise of Warriors and the Kamakura Shogunate**

Hane & Perez, p. 81-118

\*\*\*\*\***Quiz 1—Oct. 13**\*\*\*\*\*

**Oct. 13 & Oct. 20—The Ashikaga Shogunate and Civil War in Japan**

Hane & Perez, p. 119-177

**Oct. 27 & Nov. 10—Politics, Culture, and Society in Tokugawa Japan**

Hane & Perez, p. 179-251; Huffman, 9-37; *The Book of Five Rings*

Fall Reading Week—Oct. 31-Nov. 6—No class

\*\*\*\*\***Book Review Assignment due Nov. 10**\*\*\*\*\*

**Nov. 17—Crisis and Revolutionary Restoration**

Hane & Perez, p. 253-314; Huffman, p.39-47

\*\*\*\*\**Quiz 2—Nov. 17*\*\*\*\*\*

**Nov. 24 & Dec. 1 & 8—Politics, Economy, and Society in Early Meiji Japan**

Gordon, p. 61-116; Huffman, p. 49-71

\*\*\*\*\**1<sup>st</sup> Source Document Assignment due Dec. 1*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\**Mid-term Exam during December examination period*\*\*\*\*\*

**Jan. 12, Jan. 19, & Jan. 26—Early Japanese Imperialism and the Impact of Empire**

Gordon, p. 117-141; Huffman, p. 73-95

**Feb. 2 & 9--The Tumultuous Twenties**

Gordon, p. 141-186; Huffman, p. 97-119

\*\*\*\*\**Quiz 3—Feb. 2*\*\*\*\*\*

**Feb. 16 & March 2—The Manchurian Incident and the Darkening Thirties**

Gordon, p. 187-208; Huffman, p. 121-131

Feb. 18-26—Winter Reading Week—No class

**March 9 & 16—The Drive for a “New Order” and the Greater East Asia War**

Gordon, p. 209-231; Huffman, 131-147

\*\*\*\*\**Term Paper due March 9*\*\*\*\*\*

**March 23—Embracing Defeat: The US Occupation**

Gordon, p. 232-251; Huffman, 149-160

\*\*\*\*\**Quiz 4—March 23*\*\*\*\*\*

**March 30 & April 6—Recovery, Affluence and Uncertainty: Building a New Japanese Model in the later 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries**

Gordon, p. 253-375; Huffman, p.160-199

\*\*\*\*\**2<sup>nd</sup> Source Document Assignment due March 30*\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\**Final Exam in the April exam period*\*\*\*\*\*

**Use of Electronic Devices:**

No electronic devices are permitted in tests or examinations.

**Additional Statements:**

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness