

**History 2605E**  
**Survey of Japanese History**  
**2024-25**

Instructor: **Dr. Carl Young**

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Office Hours: **Wednesdays 10-11 AM, Thursdays 11 AM-noon or by  
appointment**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

**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.

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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

### Methods of Evaluation

Term Paper (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 5**.

The book review will be based on **one** of two choices (*The Diary of Lady Murasaki* or *Hagakure*) assigned in the first semester and will be due on **Nov. 13**. 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. 4**. The second source document assignment on themes from the late Meiji period to the present will be due on **March 26**.

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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.

**Exams:** 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.

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

### ***Absences and late assignments***

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. I normally request both an electronic copy of your assignment, submitted on OWL, and a paper copy submitted to myself in class, during my office hours, or through the History department office (please see below). Penalties stop on receipt of the first version (either electronic or paper) that has been received. However, I will normally only start marking your assignment when I have both versions of your assignment. If you have missed class, try and get notes from another member of the class. The Powerpoints for the lectures will also be posted after they have been presented.

If you hand in your assignment late, please hand in your paper copy 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.

In case of family emergency, illness, or other circumstances, penalties can be removed from assignments after approval from academic counselling. In these circumstances, please get in contact with your home faculty or college's academic counselling office and submit the required forms and documentation. The office will then get in touch with me and give me recommendations for accommodation. Students have the right to file **one assignment per course per semester** with academic counselling without supporting documentation. As mentioned above, the **midterm and final exams** will always require documentation for a makeup sitting.

Some students have access to flexibility in assignment deadlines through Accessible Education. This allows for extensions on assignments for a few days without having to go through academic counselling. Please come and consult with me to work out a new assignment deadline if you have this accommodation and you are exercising this option. Flexibility in assignment deadlines does not mean extending assignment submission over weeks or months. This is to avoid stress in the end of the semester with an accumulation of assignments for submission. If more time is needed than a few days, academic counselling will need to be consulted.

All written work (regardless of accommodations) must be submitted by the end of classes, which is **April 4, 2025**. Any petition for extension beyond this date will require approval from the academic counselling office with supporting documentation.

Please consult the following for more in-depth information on department, faculty, and university policies on absences and late submissions.

- Social Science Academic Counselling on [Absence & Academic Consideration](#)
- the university's policies on [Academic Consideration for Medical Illness](#), and
- the Department of History's own [Undergraduate Policies and Statements](#)).

## Course Materials

### Required Texts

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

*Hagakure: The Book of the Samurai*, Kodansha International, 1979

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

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History (10<sup>th</sup> edition)*, Bedford/St. Martin's, 2021

## 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

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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. 11—Introduction**

**Sept. 18-- Early Japan**

Hane & Perez, p. 1-56

**Sept. 25 & Oct. 2—Culture, Society, and Politics in Heian Japan**

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

**Oct. 9 —The Rise of Warriors and the Kamakura Shogunate**

Hane & Perez, p. 81-118

Thanksgiving Holiday and Fall Reading Week—Oct. 12-20—No class

**Oct. 23 & Oct. 30—The Ashikaga Shogunate and Civil War in Japan**

Hane & Perez, p. 119-177

\*\*\*\*\***Quiz 1—Oct. 23**\*\*\*\*\*

**Nov. 6 & Nov. 13—Politics, Culture, and Society in Tokugawa Japan**

Hane & Perez, p. 179-251; Huffman, 9-37; *Hagakure*

\*\*\*\*\***Book Review Assignment due Nov. 13**\*\*\*\*\*

**Nov. 20—Crisis and Revolutionary Restoration**

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

\*\*\*\*\***Quiz 2—Nov. 20**\*\*\*\*\*

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**Nov. 27 & Dec. 4—Politics, Economy, and Society in Early Meiji Japan**

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

\*\*\*\*\***1st Source Document Assignment due Dec. 4**\*\*\*\*\*

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

**Jan. 8, Jan. 15, & Jan. 22—Early Japanese Imperialism and the Impact of Empire**

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

**Jan. 29 & Feb. 5--The Tumultuous Twenties**

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

\*\*\*\*\***Quiz 3—Feb. 12**\*\*\*\*\*

**Feb. 12 & 26—The Manchurian Incident and the Darkening Thirties**

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

Feb. 15-23—Winter Reading Week—No class

**March 5 & 12—The Drive for a “New Order” and the Greater East Asia War**

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

\*\*\*\*\***Term Paper due March 5**\*\*\*\*\*

**March 19—Embracing Defeat: The US Occupation**

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

\*\*\*\*\***Quiz 4—March 19**\*\*\*\*\*

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## **March 26 & April 2—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 26**\*\*\*\*\*

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

### **Additional Statements**

**Communication policies:** E-mail is generally the easiest way to contact me for short questions. I will endeavour to answer within the day, although there may be delays on weekends and holidays in particular. You can also ask short questions during the class lecture breaks. For longer enquiries, please drop by during my office hours at my office. If you are unable to come to my normal office hours, please contact me to set up an alternative appointment, either in person or through Zoom. For general class announcements, I use the “Announcements” feature on OWL, so please check frequently on OWL to keep track of latest class developments.

**Use of electronic devices:** No electronic devices will be allowed for quizzes or examinations. A paper English-second language dictionary will be permitted for the mid-term and final examinations. These dictionaries will be inspected when signing in to the examination.

### **Use of generative artificial intelligence (AI):**

You may not make any use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: [https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.