

Course Title	: INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE HISTORY
Course Code	: HST2258
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category of Major Prog.	: Elective
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None

Brief Course Description

This course gives an overview of Japanese history from its origins through contemporary developments. The founding cultural and political dynamics of pre-modern Japan will be explored, while particular emphasis will be given to changes in Japan in the modern era and her contemporary regional and global relations.

Aims

This course seeks to give students a general familiarity with the fundamental characteristics of Japanese history and culture and an appreciation for her modern development and global position.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Identify the fundamental political, social, economic, and cultural features of Japan throughout its history;
2. Compare Japan's historical character to Korea's and China's in light of its historical interactions with these neighbors;
3. Analyze current important domestic and foreign relations issues in Japan, and historically contextualize them; and
4. Ability to analyze both through oral discussion and in writing, translated Japanese historical primary sources.

Indicative Content

- I. Introduction
 - A. Land
 - B. People
 - C. Language
 - D. Historical Patterns
- II. Early Japan
 - A. Origins
 - B. Early History
- III. Traditional Japan
 - A. Yamato Period: The Introduction of Chinese Thought and Culture (552-710)
 - B. Nara Japan: The Stimulating Effect of Chinese Culture (710-784)
 - C. Heian Period: Development of Native Culture (794-1185)
- IV. Medieval Feudal Japan
 - A. Major Features
 - B. Kamakura Period (1185-1333)

- C. The Ashikaga Shogunate (1333-1573)
- V. Early Modern Japan, 1615-1868
 - A. The Unification of Japan
 - B. The Tokugawa Bakufu
 - C. Japan in Isolation
 - D. Wind of Change
- VI. The Meiji Era, 1868-1912
 - A. The Meiji Restoration
 - B. Political Restructuring
 - C. Industrialization
 - D. Social and Cultural Change
- VII. Prewar Japan, 1912-1931
 - A. Taisho Democracy
 - B. Japan as Colonial Power
 - C. Expansion and Militarism
- VIII. World War II, 1931-1945
 - A. Manchukuo
 - B. The China War
 - C. Road to Pearl Harbor
 - D. The End of World War II
- IX. Postwar Japan I (1945-1952)
 - A. The American Occupation
 - B. A New Japan
 - C. A Partially-Reconstructed System?
- X. Postwar Japan II (1952-1990s)
 - A. Political Life
 - B. Economic Giant
 - C. Foreign Affairs
 - D. Postwar Successes and Beyond
- XI. Japan Today and Tomorrow
 - A. Economic Crisis
 - B. Politics and Reform
 - C. Social and Cultural Transformation

Teaching Method

Lectures will provide an interpretive framework for the materials covered in the textbooks. Class discussions will help students to interact with each other through the analysis of primary materials, scholarly work and media coverage.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- 1) Quizzes and final exam testing knowledge of major features of Japanese history, both internally and in relation to foreign powers (LOs 1, 2, 3).
- 2) A term project, entailing both in-class presentation and written essay, containing both historical and contemporary components (LOs 1 and/or 2, 3, 4).
- 3) In-class discussion, project, and examination focusing on interpreting primary sources (LO4).

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 65%

Project: 35%

Quizzes: 20%

Participation: 10%

Examination: 35%

Required Reading

Morton, W. Scott, *Japan: Its History and Culture*, New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994.

Supplemental Readings

Bix, Herbert, *Hirohito and the Making of Modern Japan*, New York: Harper Collins, 2000.

Dower, John, *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II*, New York: Norton, 1999.

Fukuzawa, Yukichi, *The Autobiography of Yukichi Fukuzawa*, Tokyo: Hokuseido Press, 1960.

Reischauer, Edwin O., *Japan: The Story of A Nation*, 4th ed., New York: McGraw-Hill, 1990.

Statler, Oliver, *Japanese Inn*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1982.

Totman, Conrad D., *A History of Japan*, Malden, Mass.: Blackwell Publishers, 2000.

Yamakawa, Kikue, *Women of the Mito Domain: Recollections of Samurai Family Life*, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2001.

吳廷璆主編，《日本近代化研究》，北京：商務印書館，1997。

林明德，《日本史》，台北：三民書局，1986。

南開大學日本研究中心(編)，《日本研究論集》，天津：南開大學出版社，1999。

約翰.惠特尼.霍爾(著)，鄧懿等(譯)，《日本：從史前到現代》，北京：商務印書館，1997。

鄭樑生，《日本通史》，台北：明文書局股份有限公司，第2版，1995。

Important Notes:

(1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.

(2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.

(3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.

(4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.