

Introduction to Japan (#32300)

Fall 2018, MWF 9 – 10 a.m., CLA 0.128

Professor Kirsten Cather, WCH 4.112, kcather@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: M 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m., W 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Description:

This course offers a broad introduction to the culture, history, and society of Japan from ancient times to present. We will do this by tracing the evolution of key figures and people over time: the Emperor from the dawn of time to today; court ladies in the Heian period; samurai, merchants, & their wives in the middle ages to Edo. Along the way, we'll consider also neighboring Chinese & Koreans, Western barbarians & postwar occupiers, war dead, soldiers & Self Defense Forces, as well as poets, propagandists & protestors. In the final weeks of the semester, students will break off into smaller reading groups centered around Norma Field's 1991 book *In the Realm of the Dying Emperor* to facilitate in-depth discussions on important contemporary debates revolving around many of these key figures and issues.

The primary goal of this course is to discover how citizens, intellectuals, leaders, policymakers, and artists were negotiating the particular contexts in which they lived by analyzing primary source materials (i.e. laws, memoirs, letters, poems, essays, stories, art, etc.) produced in the period. The secondary goal of this course is to learn how to read these sources critically and analytically. The format of the course will include both lecture as well as small group and class discussion. Your active participation is essential. This course provides an introductory foundation for students to go onto more specialized, upper-division courses in fields such as Japanese anthropology, art history, economics, film, history, international business, literature, political science, religion, and sociology. This course carries the Global Cultures flag, which means it is designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States.

Required Materials:

- 1) **Course Reader**, avail. for purchase at Jenn's Copy Shop **NORTH branch** (2518 Guadalupe St, 482-0779).
- 2) **Norma Field, *In the Realm of the Dying Emperor* (IRDE)**, available at Co-Op for purchase or feel free to buy online (ISBN # 9780679741893).
- 3) A packet of standard size 3"x5" **index cards** to use for frequent in-class pop quizzes or exercises.
- 4) **Discussion questions**. For the vast majority of our readings (or sets of related readings), I will regularly post discussion questions (DQ) on Canvas under Files. These will help focus your reading and your notetaking as well as help to prepare you for in-class discussion and tests.

Your class will frequently use the Lectures Online recording system. This system records the audio and video material presented in class for you to review after class. Links for the recordings will appear in the Lectures Online tab (on left side) in Canvas.

Grading Policy

Grades are assigned as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; 80-82.9 = B-; 77-79.9 = C+; 73-76.9 = C; 70-72.9 = C-; 67-69.9 = D+; 63-66.9 = D; 60-62.9 = D-; below 60 = F. As a rule, I do not grade on a curve or round up grades. If you receive an 89, you will receive a B+. One exception to this rule is that a grade that is very close to the next grade level, such as an 89.9 or 79.9, may be rounded up to the higher grade if the student has consistently attended class and participated fully.

Grading:

Pop Quizzes and In-class Individual & Group Work: 25% TOTAL (2 lowest grades automatically dropped)

Frequent pop quizzes will be given at the start or during class. Their purpose is twofold: to track attendance and to check if you have done the reading assignments and/or are understanding the materials. You will be eligible for partial credit if you attend class but get the answers wrong. You need to use an index card for these or they will not be graded. Your two lowest quiz scores will be automatically dropped. No make-ups allowed.

Tests: 2 total = 55% TOTAL (no makeups)

Exam 1 (weeks 1-6) = 25%

Exam 2 (weeks 7-12) = 30%

Each test will cover all materials – readings, lectures, discussions – from that Unit. Details about the format of the exams will be given at least one week prior.

Individual In-Class Work during Weeks 12, 14, and 15 = 5% TOTAL

During the final weeks of the semester, we will be reading Norma Field's 1991 book, *In the Realm of the Dying Emperor*. This book will enable us to review many of the key concepts and figures we have studied over the course of the semester as well as to update our analysis by considering how these issues continue to matter to contemporary debates. As noted on the schedule, for these sessions, *you will be split into two separate groups to facilitate smaller group discussions. Show up only on the day assigned for your group prepared to actively engage/talk*. Group assignments TBA.

Take-home final project/essay = 15% TOTAL (due Monday, Dec. 10 at 10 a.m.)

This will be a cumulative final project/essay (maximum 5-pages) that focuses largely on your response to Field's book while asking that you integrate what you have learned over the course of the semester into your response. The prompt for this project/essay will be announced by early November.

Extra Credit Opportunity = 0–3% added to Exam (2 maximum total, 1 allowed per exam):

Media Watch Assignment: Pick a recent (ideally within the past 3 months, no more than 1 year old) news article from any reliable news source (online or print media okay, avoid Wikipedia or random chat forums), and submit a hard copy of the original news article with complete citation information along with a 2-page (maximum) engaging personal response. Your grade is based on quality of submission & depth of engagement. Choose your topic and timing wisely so that it is something that enriches our study of Japan. You may opt to do a maximum of two of these assignments, one for each unit test, for up to 3% extra credit points toward that unit test. At the latest, the first is due by Mon. Oct 8th (class time on the day of Exam #1 day) and the second by Mon. Nov 19th (Exam #2 day). No lates accepted.

Instructions for 2-page (maximum) engaging personal essay:

No need for a formal paper here, but be sure to do five things in your 2-page (typed, double spaced, 1" margins, in Times or equivalent font):

- 1) Give it a catchy and appropriate title that establishes your main point.
- 2) Very briefly (2-3 sentences) describe the article or speaker's main point/argument.
- 3) Pick 1-2 of the most interesting and thought-provoking things about the article to discuss and probe in depth. This should be something that provoked a strong reaction in you, whether positive or negative because it was intriguing, illuminating, controversial, objectionable, etc.
- 4) Explain briefly how the article relates in some way to something specific we have discussed in class and/or why this topic is important to your understanding of Japan.
- 5) Finally, be ready to discuss your ideas in the next class if called upon to do so.

Standards and Expectations:

Careful and thorough reading of the assigned texts by the date indicated on the schedule. Reading requires active engagement with the text and detailed notetaking. Merely highlighting or skimming is insufficient.

Bring your copy of the readings to class to refer to them for group and class discussions.

Attendance at all classes and attentive listening to the lecture. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave. Active, considerate participation in class and group discussions. Common courtesy expected.

Timely completion of assignments and examinations. No make-up tests will be given. Extensions will be granted in only very rare cases for legitimate reasons (i.e. religious holidays), but even in these cases, arrangements must be made with the instructor one week prior to the examination date. Last-minute family or medical emergencies will be considered, but are not guaranteed and documented proof of emergency is required. No exceptions.

Canvas: Announcements of schedule changes may be made in the previous class and/or Canvas announcements. PowerPoints and other lecture notes **will not** be posted on Canvas. If you miss class, you should arrange to get notes from a classmate and/or take advantage of the Lectures Online Recording System (on Canvas) if that is available for that day. If you have questions, feel free to come to office hours.

Official Policies:

Academic Integrity: You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and integrity. Behaviors, such as plagiarism, copying of another student's work, or cheating on an exam, are serious offenses that will result in the grade of an "F" for the course and will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be taken. Please refer to the following website for information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work and/or discuss this with the instructor: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php

University Electronic Notification Mail Policy: In this course, e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class announcements and assignments. As per the University Electronic Notification Policy (please see <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>), it is your responsibility to update your email address and to check your e-mail regularly.

Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who require special accommodations may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6529 voice or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information, please see: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

Use of Canvas in Class: Handouts and supplementary readings will be made available on Canvas. You should print these out and bring with you to class. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Canvas is available at <http://canvas.utexas.edu/>.

Religious Holidays: If you will need to miss class, tests, or other assignments due to the observance of a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the work you have missed provided you notify me **at least one week prior** to the absence.

Schedule:

- ** All Japanese authors are listed last name first following the Japanese practice.
- ** Readings are marked with a -- and should be completed by the day listed on the schedule.
- ** Below is a detailed outline of the material we will cover over the course of the semester. Based on our day-to-day progress getting through materials, we may go a bit faster or slower. Any major schedule changes will be announced via Canvas when necessary.

UNIT 1: GODS & EMPERORS, Divine (& not so divine) Rulers and Origins

Week One (Aug. 29 & 31): Orienting Japan

Wed: Overview and Introduction

Fri: *Mapping the Nation in Space and Time*

--"The Ancient Period," pp. TJL, 15-21

Commented [MOU1]: Please include up to section on Kojiki (Record of Ancient Matters)

Week Two (Sept. 5 & 7): Establishing Legitimacy in Legend, Lyric, Land & Law in Ancient "Japan" (-->8th c.)

Mon: OFF for Labor Day

Wed: --*Kojiki* (712), excerpt #1, TJL, 21-33

Fri: --*Kojiki*, preface, 1-4 & excerpt #2, TJL, 37-44

Commented [MOU2]: Please start with Kojiki (Record of Ancient Matters) subheading and end just before Luck of the Sea episode.

Commented [MOU3]: add p. 4 (attached)

Commented [MOU4]: Starting with Book 2, Mt Miwa

Week Three (Sept. 10, 12 & 14):

Mon: Wrap up *Kojiki*

--Prayers to the gods (norito) example (ca. 8th–9th c.), TJL, 56-60

--Fudoki (gazetteer) examples (ca. 8th c.), TJL, 53-55

In-class clips of *Spirited Away* (dir. Miyazaki Hayao, 2001)

Wed: --Prince Shōtoku, "17-Article "Constitution" (604), SJT 1, 40-42; 50-55

--*Man'yōshū* (ca. 759), excerpts, TJL, 60-73; 100-104; Prince Shōtoku poem, 36-37

Fri: Discuss syncretism & religions of Japan

--Empress Shōtoku, "Edict on the Great Thanksgiving Festival" (ca. 765), SJT 1, 341-342

--"Japanese Religions," in *Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions*, 3-12

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Commented [MOU6]: Addition – PDF attached

Week Four (Sept. 17, 19 & 21): Imperial Politics, Poetics & Gender in the Heian Period (794-1185)

Mon: --Sei Shōnagon, *The Pillowbook* (1005), TJL, 247-50; 275-85

--Ki no Tsurayuki, *Kokinshū* (ca. 905) preface and examples, 146-150

Wed: --"The Rise of Women's Writing," TJL 114-116

--Bowring, "The Female Hand in Heian Japan: A First Reading," 49-56

--Mandel, "Introduction," in Japanese Alphabet, 11-13, 18-25; 30-33, 42-43

Fri: --Chapter I: "Kiritsubo: The Lady of the Paulonia-Courtyard Chambers," *The Tale of Genji* (ca. 1010), 3-21

Commented [MOU7]: Please truncate this reading some. Skip 14-17 & start with Origins & Development of Jpn Writing, 18-25.

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Week Five (Sep. 24, 26, 28): Samurai, Swords, Shogun & SPAM, Middle Ages–Early Modern Era (1185-1868)

Mon: --The Way of the Warrior I, SJT 1, 265-269

--*The Tale of the Heike* (ca. 1185), in SJT 1, 276-280 & in TJL 706-710; 720-24; 736-39; 742-44, & "The Drowning of the Former Emperor," 13-15

Wed: *Religion & Political Power Revisited: middle ages to early modern period*

--"The Mongol Invasions of Japan" (1274 & 1281), SJT 1, 280-283

--Kitabatake Chikafusa, "Chronicle of Direct Descent of Gods & Sovereigns" (1339), SJT 1, 358-363

--"Anti-Christian Pronouncements" (Toyotomi Hideyoshi, 1587) & "Statement on the Expulsion of the Bateria" (commissioned by Tokugawa Ieyasu, 1614), SJT 2.1, 144-146; 148-151

In-class clips from *Silence* (dir. Martin Scorsese, 2016)

Commented [MOU9]: Attached as pdf

- Fri: *SPAM in Edo Period*
 --Oda Nobunaga, "The Articles of 1570," SJT 1, 441-42
 --Toyotomi Hideyoshi, "The Disarmament of the Populace," (1588) and "Restrictions on Change of Status," SJT 1, 458-463
 --Tokugawa Ieyasu, "Code for the Warrior Households (1615)" and "Code for the Imperial Court & Court Nobility" (1615), SJT 2.1, 14-18, "The House Codes of Tokugawa Merchant Families (1610)," SJT 2.1, 265-271

Week Six (Oct. 1, 3 & 5): Samurai in Theory vs. Practice in the Edo Period (1600-1868)

- Mon: --The Way of the Warrior II, SJT 2.1, 353-54
 --Yamamoto Tsunetomo: *Hagakure* (Hidden in Leaves)" (ca. 1710) excerpts, SJT 2.1 387-393
 In class clips of *Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai* (dir. Jim Jarmusch, 1999)
 --"The Debate Over the Akō Vendetta (1703)," SJT 2.1, 354-357, 364-373, 353-357, 381-83
 Wed: --*Musui's Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai* (Katsu Kokichi, 1843) excerpts, 1-21; p. 23-42 + notes/appendices
 In-class clips from *Seven Samurai* (dir. Kurosawa Akira, 1954)
 Fri: Study day for Exam #1

Commented [MOU10]: Excerpts for Satō Naokata & Asama Keisai (pp. 364-373) only please

Commented [MOU11]: Fukuzawa Yukichi excerpt only please

Week Seven (Oct. 8, 10 & 12): The Emperor's army has no clothes

- Mon: **Exam #1 on Ancient to Premodern Japan (25%)**
 Wed: In-class screening of *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On* (dir. Hara Kazuo, 1987, 122 min.)
 Fri: Finish screening and discuss *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*

UNIT 2: DIVINE CAUSES & CLASHES

Week Eight (Oct. 15, 17 & 19): Revere the Emperor, Oust the Barbarian (mid-late 19th c.)

- Mon: --The Debate over Seclusion and Restoration, SJT 2.1, 518-519
 --Aizawa Seishisai, *New Theses* excerpts (1825), SJT 2.1, 520-529
 --"Letters from US President Fillmore and US Navy Commander Perry to the Emperor of Japan" (1852-53)
 Wed: --Sakuma Shōzan, "Eastern Ethics and Western Science" (ca. 1850), SJT 2.1, 529-534
 --Ii Naosuke & Tokugawa Nariaki, *Memorial on the American Demand for a Treaty* (1853), 99-106
 Fri: --The Meiji Constitution, 1889, SJT 2.2, 76-79
 --Itō Hirobumi, "Some Reminiscences of the Grant of the New Constitution" (1909), 122-132
 --Nationalism & Pan-Asianism: "The Unity of Rites and Rules," 1870; "Memorial," 1874; and "Mikadoism," ca. 1910s in SJT 2.2, 117-123
 --The Meiji Emperor: "Letter from the Meiji Emperor to his People, April 7, 1868" & reports on/by Emperor, 1872-1904, SJT 2.2, 24-29
 --Japanese National Anthem, "Kimigayo," 1888

Commented [MOU12]: Available at: http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/japan/fillmore_perry_letters.pdf

Commented [MOU13]: attached

Week Nine (Oct. 22, 24 & 26): Imperialist War Propaganda & Protest (1890-1945)

- Mon: --The Imperial Rescript on Education, 1890, SJT 2.2, 108-110
 --Yosano Akiko, "Beloved, You Must Not Die (1904)," 302-03; "An Open Letter" (1904), "A Certain Country, 1911), 333-39;
 --General Nogi and Shizuko, "Nogi Maresuke: The Emperor's Samurai: Death Poems & Complete Testament (1912)," 29-35, 56-62
 In-class clips from *Army (Rikugun)*, dir. Kinoshita Keisuke, 1944)

Commented [MOU14]: If possible, on the hard copy after the poem's title, can you correct the date? It should be 1904 (not 1905)

Commented [MOU15]: please white out last paragraph marked ok to skim.

Commented [MOU16]: please white out the paragraph at top before *

- Wed: --"The Way of Subjects" (1941), SJT 2.2, 304-305
 --"The Greater E. Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" (June 1940) & "Draft of Basic Plan for Establishment of Greater E. Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" (January 1942), 312-15
 --"Momotarō, or the Story of the Son of a Peach" (ca. 1800)
 --"The Transformation of a Classic Tale into Pro-War Propaganda"
- Fri: --Last Letters of Kamikaze pilots, pp. 120-123
 --Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, Kamikaze, Cherry blossoms & Nationalism excerpts, pp. 186-87, 226-242
 --Kōno Taeko, "Iron Fish" (1976), 348-360
 In-class clips from *Eternal Zero*

Week Ten (Oct. 29, 31 & Nov 2): Fallen Gods, Emperors & Occupiers (Occupation Period, 1945-1952)

- Mon: --"Imperial Rescript on Surrender" (August 14, 1945), 317-19
 --"The Emperor's Renunciation of his Divinity" (January 1, 1946), 126
 --MacArthur & Emperor photo at <https://iconicphotos.wordpress.com/2012/09/28/when-macarthur-met-the-emperor/> (check out both websites' comments section for recent postings)
 --Ruth Benedict, *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword* (1946), Foreword by Ezra Vogel, ix-xii,
 "Assignment: Japan," 1-5; "The Dilemma of Virtue," pp. 195-200, 208-215
 In-class: MacArthur Archives on Emperor: <http://www.nancho.net/nancho/ghgemps1.html>
- Wed: --"Text of Japan's Two Constitutions (The 1889 Meiji Constitution and The 1946 Postwar Constitution)," 158-71 **Focus on pp. 158-163
 --Nakasone Yasuhiro, "The 'MacArthur' Constitution," (1953), SJT 2.2, 388-389
- Fri: --Ōe Kenzaburō, "Growing up during the Occupation" and "Hallo-Hallo!" (1965), SJT 2.2, 374-77
 --Kurihara Sadako, poems (ca. 1952), TJL, 372-374
 In-class clips of *MacArthur's Children* (dir. Shinoda Masahiro, 1987) & *In this Corner of the World* (dir. Katabuchi Sunao, 2016)

Commented [MOU17]: please white out after paragraph ends with "dying by their own hands."

Commented [MOU18]: Starting at bottom of 208 with new paragraph (The Japanese themselves...) and ending with the end of 215.

Commented [MOU19]: CK this to see if relevant here or elsewhere

Week Eleven (Nov. 5, 7, 9): The Chrysanthemum Taboo, War Responsibility in PW & Contemp. Japan (1945→present)

- Mon: In-class screening of BBC documentary *Hirohito, Behind the Myth* (1989)
- Wed: Discuss BBC documentary
- Fri: --Preface & Prologue of *In the Realm of the Dying Emperor (IRDE)*, xv-29
 --"The Transformation of the Postwar Monarchy," SJT 2.2, 391-93

Week Twelve (Nov. 12, 14 & 16):

**Important: For Mon/Wed this week, you will be split into two separate groups to facilitate smaller group discussions. Show up only on the day assigned for your group prepared to actively engage/talk.*

- Mon*: **GROUP A only**
 --"III: Nagasaki, The Mayor," in *IRDE*, pp. 175-220, pp. 242-266 (pp. 221-241 are optional)
- Wed*: **GROUP B only**
 --"III: Nagasaki, The Mayor," in *IRDE*, pp. 175-220, pp. 242-266 (pp. 221-241 are optional)
- Fri: *Class discussion & Review: Rethinking the Nation of Nihon*
 --Amino Yoshihiko, "Deconstructing 'Japan,'" ca. 1990, SJT 2.2, 575-80
 --"Japanese Royal Tomb Opened to Scholars for First Time" (2008)
 --"Horse-riding Warriors: they came, they saw and they conquered...or did they?" (2010)

Week Thirteen (Nov. 19, W & F off for Thanksgiving):

- Mon: **Exam #2 on Modern to Contemporary Japan (30%)**
- W&F: OFF for Thanksgiving

Unit Three: Reading Groups & Review

**Important: For the next 2 weeks on M/W, you will be split into 2 separate groups to facilitate smaller group discussions. Show up only on day assigned for your group prepared to actively engage/talk.*

Week Fourteen (Nov. 26, 28, & 30): The Flag

Mon*: ***GROUP A only**

--"Chapter I: Okinawa, A Supermarket Owner," in *IRDE*, pp. 33-104

Wed*: ***GROUP B only**

--"Chapter I: Okinawa, A Supermarket Owner," in *IRDE*, pp. 33-104

Fri: *TBD*

Week Fifteen (Dec. 3, 5 & 7): Article 9, Self-Defense Forces, & Yasukuni

Mon*: ***GROUP A only**

--"II: Yamaguchi, An Ordinary Woman," in *IRDE*, pp. 105-174

Wed*: ***GROUP B only**

--"II: Yamaguchi, An Ordinary Woman," in *IRDE*, pp. 105-174

Fri: **Groups A & B together again**

--Yosano Akiko, "Beloved, You Must Not Die (1904)," 302-03

--Chong Chuwol, "The Paradox of Lamentation" (1988), in *IRDE*, 3-4

--"Epilogue" and "Postscript," in *IRDE*, pp. 267-280

Week Sixteen (Dec. 10)

Mon: Last class day

Take home essay on *IRDE* due (15%)

Abbreviated bibliography:

- *SJT* *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vols. 1, 2.1 & 2.2, ed. Wm. Theodore De Bary et al., NY: Columbia University Press.
- *TJL* *Traditional Japanese Literature*, ed. Haruo Shirane, NY: Columbia University Press.
- *IRDE* *In the Realm of the Dying Emperor*, Norma Field, ISBN # 9780679741893