

## **JAS210: Introduction to Japanese History**

**Spring Term, 2010 (Tuesday & Thursday, 14:00~15:15)**

**Instructor: Norihito Mizuno, Ph.D.**

**Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday, noon-13:30  
or by appointment**

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### **Course Description**

JAS210 is an introductory survey course of Japanese history from antiquity until recent Years. It will focus on and discuss the following broad themes -- the formation and development of early Japanese civilization, the era of warriors, Japan's modern and post-WWII experiences, and the current issues which Japan faces. It is a lecture-based course, students are expected to participate in in-class discussions actively. It is designed primarily for foreign students, but Japanese students are also welcomed.

### **Course Objectives**

This course will pursue the following objectives:

1. Gain basic factual knowledge of Japanese history.
2. Analyze various historical events of Japanese history in the context of the development of human civilization.
3. Develop ability to assess and discuss historical issues through writing assignments and in-class discussions.

### **Classroom Activities**

1. Students are expected to be in class **on time**.
2. Students are expected to attend every meeting.
4. Students are required to **fulfill all the course requirement to complete and pass this course**.
4. Students are also expected to raise questions and participate in class discussion actively.
5. Audiovisual materials (e.g., DVDs) will be shown in class.

**\*If you need any kind of accommodation for study purposes, feel free to contact me.**

### **Prerequisites**

None (Ideally, students have ever taken any course on East Asia.)

### **Evaluation**

1. Final Examination (40%): A study guide will be given at least one week the exam.
2. Quizzes (5% x 4 = 20%): A study guide will be given days before each quiz.
3. Short term paper (20%): See the instructions.
4. Participation (20%): Silence would never contribute to your participation grade.

“Late arrival” will not be regarded as either attendance or participation. Failing to attend five times without a legitimate reason, a student will be given “F” as her/his course grade automatically.

\*Some chances to earn extra points may be given.

### **Course Materials**

TBA.

### **Course Schedule (TENTATIVE)**

Week 1 (April. 13 & 15)

- I. Course Introduction
- II. Japan’s Geographical Setting

Week 2 (April 20 & 22)

- III. The Formation of Early Japanese Civilization 1: Japan’s Genesis & Indigenous Culture
- IV. The Formation of Early Japanese Civilization 2: Foreign Influences

Week 3 (Apr. 27)

- V. The Formation of Early Japanese Civilization 3: Socio-political Transformation
- \*1<sup>st</sup> Quiz Study Guide (Apr. 27)**

Week 4 (May 6)

- VI. 1<sup>st</sup> In-Class Discussion
- \* 1<sup>st</sup> Quiz (May 6)**

Week 5 (May 11& 13)

- VII. Warriors in Japanese history 1: The Rise of Warriors
  - VIII. Warriors in Japanese history 2: Warrior Regimes
- Reading: Beasley, Ch. 5-6; Additional readings

Week 6 (May. 18 & 20)

- IX. Early Modern Japan 1: Japan under Tokugawa
  - X. Movie
- \*2<sup>nd</sup> Quiz Study Guide (May. 20)**

Week 7 (May. 25 & 27)

- XI. Modern Japan 1: Japan’s Opening to the West
  - XII. 2<sup>nd</sup> In-Class Discussion
- \*2<sup>nd</sup> Quiz (May. 27)**

Week 8 (Jun. 1 & 3)

- XIII. Modern Japan 2: Meiji Restoration
- XIV. Modern Japan 3: Japan’s Modernization Effort

Week 9 (Jun. 8 & 10)

XV. Modern Japan 4: Japan's Rise as a Great Power

XVI. In-Class Discussion

**\*3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz Study Guide (Jun. 10)**

Week 10 (Jun. 15 & 17)

XVII. Modern Japan 5: Japan in Transition

XVIII. Modern Japan 6: Japan's Crisis Management

Week 11 (Jun. 22 & 24)

XIX. Modern Japan 8: Path to the Clash

XX. Modern Japan 9: WW II

**\*3<sup>rd</sup> Quiz Study Guide (Jun. 24)**

Week 12 (Jun. 29 & Jul. 1)

XXI. Movie

XXII. In-Class Discussion

Week 13 (Jul. 6 & 8)

XXIII. Contemporary Japan 1: Japan under Occupation

XXIV. In-Class Discussion

**\*4<sup>th</sup> Quiz Study Guide (Jul. 8)**

Week 14 (Jul. 13 & 15)

XXV. Contemporary Japan 2: Japan's Resurgence as a Great Power

XXVI. Japan in Recent Years

Week 15 (Jul. 20 & 22)

XXVII. Japan in Recent Years

XXVIII. In-Class Discussion

**\*4<sup>th</sup> Quiz Study Guide (Jul. 20)**

**\*Paper Due (Jul. 20)**

**Final Examination (Jul. 27, 14:00-15:15)**