

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	HIST/JPNA170		
Course Title	Introduction to Japanese History		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	LEE, I-Zhuen Clarence	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Japan Studies: History	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	<p>The purpose of this course is to provide an interdisciplinary introduction to both the premodern and modern aspects of Japanese History. We will study and think through selected aspects of Japanese history, thought, literature, and religion beginning from the earliest time to the contemporary period. The focus will be on significant developments and representative works. As you work through this class, always consider the following questions: What is Japan, and who says so?</p> <p>The course will be mainly lecture-based with a section of each class allocated to open-ended Q&A. Students are expected to come prepared for discussion by completing the assigned readings before class.</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	<p>Weaker students pointed to overwhelming workload. Instructor has tried to reduce the amount of reading and studying required for each session.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the course ("History of Japan"), however, the material covered will continue to be from the prehistoric period to the present day. This is in order to ensure that students have the adequate background to pursue their studies in Japan related courses in iCLA.</p> <p>Details about the group project will also be given early in the semester to prepare students for the work required for that component of the course.</p>
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	None
Learning Goals	<p>Concretely, after completing this course, you should be able to better interpret news and information about Japan. You will also be prepared for further study of Japan at iCLA and beyond.</p>

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Problem-Based Learning/Flipped Classroom/Group Work/Presentation/Others (Specify in the section below)			
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	Surveys and creative performances may be included.			
Use of ICT	Microsoft Powerpoint, Google Docs, Padlet, etc.			
Contents of class preparation and review	Students are expected to complete the readings/viewings before class (which are usually of realistic length). They should expect to spend 2 hours per class session. All readings will be in English or with English subtitles. While reading, students should come out with questions/doubts that they wish to ask. Good students will always have questions. The course is keyword based, so students can review each class by attempting to define the given keywords from each lecture.	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week) 2 hours
Feedback Methods	Regular feedbacks will be given to all assignments/tests/finals in the form of comments. Students may approach the instructor at any point in the course to ask for more individualized feedback. Students are to consult with the instructor on their group project/essay.			

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Participation and Discussion	25%	
Four Small in-class tests	20%	
Group Creative Project	25%	
Final Exam	30%	

Required Textbook(s)	Varley, H. Paul. Japanese Culture. 4th ed. updated and expanded. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000. (ISBN: 9780824863081 / https://uhpress.hawaii.edu/title/japanese-culture/) All other readings/viewings can be found on OneDrive Folder
Other Reading Materials/URL	None

Plagiarism Policy	<p>Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. Depending on the nature of plagiarism committed, you may fail the assignment and/or the course. Repeated acts of plagiarism will be reported to the University, which may result in additional penalties.</p> <p>ChatGPT and other AI tools are not replacements for your original and critical thoughts. The ultimate goal of this course and any tool used to submit your assignments is to enhance your own learning and understanding, not to undermine it. Having AI write your paper therefore constitutes plagiarism, and will result in the failure of the assignment and/or the course.</p>
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>Smaller in-Class Tests: Four 50-minute tests consisting of short identifications/defining of key terms taken from lectures and readings, as well as multiple choice questions and map/image identifications. Except in the case of an emergency, no make-up tests will be given.</p> <p>Final Examination: This is a sit-down examination. They may include multiple choice, matching, or short identifications, but will mainly be essay-based. Except for special cases, no make-up exams will be given. (More information will be given later in the semester.)</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Overview and Introduction to the study of Japan
Class 2	<p>An overview of Prehistoric Japan</p> <p>Reading: Varley, pp. 1-18</p>
Class 3	<p>Nara Period and Buddhism</p> <p>Reading: Varley, 19-42</p>
Class 4	<p>The Manyōshū and Nara Literary Culture</p> <p>Readings: 1) Varley 42-47 2) Selections from Manyōshū</p>
Class 5	<p>The Kojiki, the Nihonshoki, and "Beginnings"</p> <p>Readings: Selections from Kojiki & Nihonshoki</p>
Class 6	<p>The Heian Capital and the Heian Period</p> <p>Reading: Varley, pp. 48-76</p>
Class 7	<p>Heian Court Culture, Imperial Poetic Anthologies, and the Tales of Ise</p> <p>Readings: 1) Selections from the Kokinshū 2) Selections from the Tales of Ise</p>
Class 8	<p>Heian Court Women's Cultures: The Pillow Book and Heian Diary Literature / In-class Test 1</p> <p>Reading: Selections from the Pillow Book</p>
Class 9	<p>The Tale of Genji</p> <p>Reading: Selections from the Tale of Genji</p>
Class 10	<p>Decline of Aristocratic Rule and Rise of Warriors -- The Genpei War</p> <p>Reading: Varley, pp. 77-89</p>

Class 11	Narrating the Genpei War Reading: Selections from the Tale of Heike
Class 12	The Kamakura Period and the births of "new" Buddhism Reading: Varley, pp. 91-113
Class 13	The Medieval Period, aesthetics, and Muromachi Tales / In-Class test 2 Reading: Varley, pp. 114-139
Class 14	Europeans, Unification, and Expansion Reading: Varley, pp. 140-163
Class 15	Tokugawa Stability and the SPAM system Reading: Varley, pp. 164-183
Class 16	The Floating world and the Genroku Period Reading: Varley, pp. 183-204
Class 17	Tokugawa Thought and the Discovery of the self Reading: Varley, pp. 205-234
Class 18	The Beginning of the Bakumatsu Period: Internal Crisis and Foreign Pressure Reading: Varley, pp. 235-256
Class 19	Religious/Social Millennialism and social unrest Reading: "Tenrikyō" and "Ōmoto"
Class 20	Bakumatsu Kabuki / In-Class Test 3 Reading: Kawatake Mokuami, "Benten the Thief"
Class 21	The Meiji Period: Modernization and Nationalization Reading: Varley, pp. 256-270
Class 22	The Sino/Russo-Japanese Wars and Taishō Democracy Reading: Varley, pp. 271-303
Class 23	The Rise of Ultrnationalism and Expansionism Reading: Peter Duus, Modern Japan, pp. 214-236
Class 24	State Shintō Reading: Selected Documents on State Shinto

Class 25	<p>Postwar American Occupation and Constitution</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Varley, pp. 304–307 2) Reishauer Memorandum 3) “Occupation Years”
Class 26	<p>Postwar Growth: from Japan and the world to “Japan as No. 1”</p> <p>Readings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Varley 307–325 2) Oe Kenzaburo’s Nobel Acceptance Speech
Class 27	<p>Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Nuclear Japan</p> <p>Viewing:</p> <p>Watch “Barefoot Gen” (1983)</p>
Class 28	<p>Shadows of the Past and contemporary Japanese Society</p> <p>Reading:</p> <p>“The History Problem”</p>
Class 29	<p>Student Presentations</p>
Class 30	<p>Student Presentations and Final Review</p>