

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN  
Graduate School of International Relations

Academic Year: 2016/2017

Term: Fall/Winter/Spring

Course	Course code CMC0010	Course title Introduction to Japanese History and Culture	
Name of Instructor	Prof. Pressello, Andrea		Credit Number: 1
Instructor's contact Information	Office#	Office Hours	E-mail: andreap@iuj.ac.jp
Class Schedule Day / Time	Fall 2016, 12/17-21 (2 sessions/day) Winter 2017, 3/24-28 (2 sessions/day) Spring 2017, 6/16-20 (2 sessions/day)		

**Course Description:**

This course is an introduction to the historical and cultural evolution of Japan, from ancient times to the contemporary world. The focus is on both domestic dynamics and Japan's relations with the external world. The main questions that will be addressed are: what are the major transformations in Japanese history and culture? What factors explain change and continuity? How has Japan interacted with the world in the course of its history?

**Learning Objectives:**

The course aims at providing the basic knowledge and instruments to be used in the process of analysing and understanding Japan, its culture, and its international relations both in their historical evolution and in the contemporary world.

**Career Relevance:**

This course contributes to the acquisition of an historical perspective on Japan, its culture, thought, and interactions with the world. This is a necessary background and a relevant skill for those interested in becoming specialists on Japanese affairs in the academic or public sectors and international organizations, as well as for those pursuing a career in the private sector with Japanese firms/institutions or with foreign companies/organizations dealing with Japan.

**Course Context or Rationalization:**

This course focuses on domestic dynamics and external factors as necessary elements for understanding and explaining Japan's behavior as of one of the major actors in international relations in Asia and globally. The extended period of time covered by the course – from ancient to contemporary times – permits to have a long-term perspective on the patterns and transformations in Japan and in its relations with the external world.

**Delivery Methods:**

Classes are a combination of lectures, discussions, and video.

**Assessment:**

There is no final exam. Students will be required to submit to the instructor a one-page comment on any of the topics discussed in class.

Grading: Class attendance (70%); a one-page comment on any of the topics of the course and participation in class (30%)

**Prerequisite:**

**Textbook(s)**

**Required:**

There is no specific textbook required for this course

**Reference books/Journal Articles/Other:**

**Session 1**

Hashizume, Daisaburō. “’Kami’: The Evolution of Japan’s Native Gods,” *Nippon.com*, April 2014

**Session 2**

Arntzen, Sonja. “The Tale of Genji,” *Education About Asia*, Volume 10:3 (Winter 2005): Special Section on Asia in World History: 300-1500 CE, Association for Asian Studies

**Session 3**

Reischauer, Edwin and Craig, Albert. “Early Feudal Culture” and “Zen Culture,” in *Japan: Tradition and Transformation*, Tokyo: C. E. Tuttle, pp. 49-53 and 65-72

**Session 4**

Jansen, Marius. “The Sankin Kōtai System,” in *The Making of Modern Japan*, Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2000, pp. 128-134

**Session 5**

Jansen, Marius. “Education,” in *The Making of Modern Japan*, Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2000, pp. 187-191

**Session 6**

Nishikawa, Shunsaku. “Fukuzawa Yukichi,” *Prospects: The Quarterly Review Of Comparative Education*, UNESCO: International Bureau of Education, Vol.

	<p>XXIII, no. 3/4, 1993</p> <p>Session 7 Gordon, Andrew, “Movement for Freedom and People’s Rights, in <i>A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003, pp. 77-85</p> <p>Session 8 Jansen, Marius. “Urban Culture,” in <i>The Making of Modern Japan</i>, Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2000, pp. 568-574</p> <p>Session 9 Hane, Mikiso. “A New Constitution,” in <i>Eastern Phoenix: Japan Since 1945</i>, Boulder: Westview Press, pp. 30-33</p> <p>Session 10 McGray, Douglas. “Japan’s Gross National Cool,” <i>Foreign Policy</i> - June/July 2002, pp.44-54</p>
Class Outline	<p><b>I. From the origins to classical Japan</b></p> <p><b>1) Origins and ancient Japan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Japan as an agricultural society</li> <li>● Early religious belief and Shinto</li> <li>● Formation of the early Japanese state</li> </ul> <p><b>2) From Chinese influence to the emergence of the Japanese cultural pattern</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Penetration of Buddhism and the centralization of the state</li> <li>● Emergence of the Japanese cultural pattern in the Heian period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Court aristocracy and cultural production</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>II. Medieval Japan</b></p> <p><b>3) Warriors’ rule and cultural blossoming</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The rise of warriors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Kamakura and Ashikaga <i>bakufu</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>● Artistic expression under warriors’ patronage</li> <li>● From civil war to the unification of Japan</li> </ul>

### **III. Edo period**

#### **4) Socio-political-economic transformations in the “closed country”**

- The *bakuhan* system and the transformation of the samurai’s role
- Rise of merchants and emergence of a national commercial network
- Japan as a “closed country”

#### **5) Cultural flourishing in Edo Japan**

- Urbanization and *chōnin* (townsmen) culture
- Collapse of the *bakufu* system and imperial restoration

### **IV. Modern Japan**

#### **6) Opening to the West and the beginning of Japan’s modernization**

- Dismantlement of feudal institutions
- “Civilization and enlightenment”
  - Fukuzawa Yukichi
- Industrialization and rural Japan

#### **7) Political institutions, foreign policy, and culture in Meiji Japan**

- The adoption of modern political institutions
- The making of Japan as an international power
- Culture in Meiji Japan

#### **8) From “Taishō democracy” to the Pacific War**

- Parliamentary governments and social movements in the 1910s-1920s
- Mass culture and society between the two World Wars
- From cooperation with the West to confrontation and war

### **V. Postwar Japan**

#### **9) From defeat to the building of a new Japan**

- Defeat and occupation
- Recovery and Japan as an economic power
- Japan’s postwar international relations
- Society and culture after the war

#### **10) Japan in the post-Cold War era**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Post-Cold War domestic challenges</li><li>● The debate on Japan's role in the world</li><li>● "Cool Japan" and the global influence of Japanese culture</li></ul>
Others (if any)	