

Hist 4443 S01: Modern Japan, spring 2019

Instructor Information

Instructor: Ihor Pidhainy

Westga email ipidhain@westga.edu

Time & Location – Pafford 107; MW 12:30-1:45

Office: Technology Learning Center (TLC) #3245

OR by appointment.

Office hours: MW 9:30-11:30, 3:30-4:30

Course Description

This is an introduction to modern Japanese history that will examine the politics, culture, and history of Japan from about 1600 to the present. A strong emphasis will be placed on the examination on military, warfare and the representations of warfare in Japanese history. We will use a variety of approaches to do so, including historical accounts, literary depictions, contemporary interviews, manga, animated manga and others. Our accounts and sources will be in English, whether in translation from Japanese, Chinese, Korean, or in original (when using either American or British sources). The aim in the course is to get at modern sensibilities (or perceptions of those sensibilities), so use will often be made of modern interpretations of ancient or medieval Japan.

TEXTS, READINGS, RESOURCES, AND REFERENCES

Required Texts

There are seven required texts that are available from the UWG bookstore. A number of the books are available in various formats and editions and information below states preferences and allowances in regard to the books. I have listed books by when they appear in the course:

1. *Tales of the Heike*, Burton Watson, trans., Columbia UP (ISBN: 978-0231138031)

Available at the bookstore. It can also be found online and elsewhere.

2. *Usagi Yojimbo: Grasscutter*, Stan Sakai (Dark Horse Comics (1-56971-413-4))

This book (or extended comic book) was originally published in the title above. It is available second-hand on Amazon.com and elsewhere. It is available as a digital pdf, but my suggestion is that you stick with a printed copy of the work.

Grasscutter is published as part of compilations of Stan Sakai's work. One such compilation is *Usagi Yojimbo Saga. Volume 2*. (ISBN: 978-1616556105). It is one of six works collected there, but is only a few more dollars than *Grasscutter* on its own.

3. *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa to the Present*. Andrews, Gordon. Oxford UP (ISBN: 0195110617)

The UWG bookstore carries the 3rd edition, but given the price, I'm ok with you using either earlier edition and making do with the last chapter otherwise.

4. *Hiroshima*, John Hershey. Vintage (ISBN 9780679721031)

Many printings. Whichever one you find works for me.

5. *Barefoot Gen: A Cartoon Story of Hiroshima*. Volume One. Keiji Nakazawa. Last Gasp Comics (9780867196023) Last Gasp (lastgasp.com)

UWG bookstore carries this work. Available, but not widely.

6. *I Saw It: The Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima: A Survivor's True Story*, Keiji Nakazawa Last Gasp (lastgasp.com)

This is a comic book (literally). Publisher offers it at 1982 price: \$2.00. UWG bookstore carries it at same price. (Amazon has a crazy listing as of the writing of this syllabus)

7. *Autobiography of a Geisha*, Sayo Masuda, Columbia UP (9780231129510)

Many printings. Widely available.

Other readings will be made available online on/through CourseDen.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

By completion of the course, students

1. will demonstrate a knowledge of modern Japanese history
2. be able to discuss primary and secondary source approaches to the understanding of Japanese history, at least in specifics of the course and its readings.
3. Be able to distinguish an awareness of how a variety of genres examine questions in Japanese history
4. Be able to distinguish an awareness of different national perspectives in examining various topics and/or events in modern Japanese history
5. Demonstrate ability to write an essay that reflects persuasive historical arguments based on evidence and proper citation (Chicago format)
6. **Assignments**

Assignment name	Description	Grading and due date	Value
Summary and Response	This is a 1-2 page summary and response to each of the required texts for purchase.	Various. 5x3%; #6 can be used to supplement grade	15%
Short Essays	Short essay of 5-6 pages concerning some topic	See schedule. 7.5% each	15%
Research Paper	This is a research paper of 10-12 pages. There are several preliminary steps. Topic Secondary and primary sources Thesis and outline Draft Final version	Topic: 5% Secondary & Primary Sources: 5% Thesis and outline: 10% 1 st Draft: 30% Final Draft: 50% [for dates see schedule]	30%
Participation	This will be based on students' participation in discussions in-class. Outstanding contributions will be noted.		15%
Final Exam	Essay based on assigned readings and lectures	Given during exam period	25%
TOTAL			100

7.

Grading Information and Policy

Grading structure and point scale

90% - 100%	A
80% - 89%	B
70% - 79%	C
60% - 69%	D
< 60%	F

Grading Rubrics and explanations about grade items

Summary and Response

These are short summaries and responses to our assigned texts (except for A. Gordon). They should be 1-2 pages that contain a brief summary and a response to the text read. They should be considered a means by which you are keeping track of your reading and your response to that reading. Only five are required, but the sixth can be used to supplement your grade.

Grading ABC scale.

A – excellent – you’ve shown intellectual interest in the topic and reading.

B – Very Good – The work is good. At the minimum it satisfies the questions and topic. At the high end, it shows you are on the verge of excellent work.

C - Mediocre – The work appears listless and lifeless – as if slapped together just before class.

Short Essays

These are short essays (5-6 pages) that will be assigned with a range of specific topics. They may be rooted in one of the assigned readings, and might require additional work (some primary and secondary). They will be graded as a standard essay, following the rubric offered below.

Participation

You will receive a grade by your participation in class. This means taking part in discussions, asking questions, offering interpretations, and making your intellectual presence felt.

Grade Scale: ABC

A indicates that you regularly participate in discussions etc. and do so in a manner that intellectually stimulates the class.

B indicates that you regularly participate in discussions etc.

C indicates that you occasionally participate in discussions etc.

D indicates that you seldom participate in discussion etc.

Final Research Paper

This project – the major assignment in the course – will be an essay of some 10-12 pages on some aspect of modern Japan. There are a number of steps involved: choosing a topic, locating sources, sketching an outline and thesis, completing the final revision; each of which will make up part of the grade. Specific information concerning the grading and the requirements of each part will be given during the semester.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of writing one essay in the exam period, with a focus on presenting a synthesis of your understanding of modern Japan, based on readings, lectures and discussions in class.

Guide to Essay Grading

Letter Grades and their corresponding numerical Value

A+	98	B+	88	C+	78	D+	68	F 30-59 (varies)
A	95	B	85	C	75	D	65	
A-	90	B-	80	C-	70	D-	60	

A = Exceptional

For a single piece of work, this means answering it in a way that shows to your grader that you not only understood what was being asked but were able to show insight beyond what is easily discernable. This involves what you argued, along with how you argued, as well as with your skill

in writing. “What you argued” involves the facts and details, evidence and sources that you use to make your argument. “How you argued” involves the arrangement of your argument, the weight you give arguments, the ability to involve counter-arguments and other such features. “Your skill in writing” involves showing your rhetorical use of language, choosing appropriate and specific words where necessary, structuring your sentences in ways that please as well as back up your argument, and – finally – displaying a grasp of rhetoric, where appropriate.

B = Good Work

Good work is a notch down from “exceptional” work – there are unforced errors in substance and style. Generally, the argument is strong, the evidence supports this, and the writing doesn’t wreck this too much.

C= Competent/average

Average work means that you communicate a decent answer to the question asked. The answer is therefore in general correct. However, faults, errors and mistakes may arise. This might be in the facts, evidence, argument, organization or language aspects of the work.

D= Poor work

A notch down from C, a D generally indicates that your work does not adequately answer the question and/or also includes many factual errors, much poor writing and shows a lack of integration of ideas that have been used in class.

F = Failure to achieve above criteria...

If you are getting Fs in your work, then we need to sit down and talk about where you are falling short.

Nota Bene:

Incomplete work and/or missing work will kill your grade.

Late Policy

For all assignments (but not Final Exam), late penalty is 10% per day. If you are late by less than 24 hours, you may email me a request for an extension of 24 hours and it will automatically be granted. (You can email/inform me after the due date within the 24 hours.) If you are going to be more than a day late, please speak/email me within 24 hours of the due date to request additional time.

Final Exam late policy differs as we are abiding by the school exam schedule.

HONOR CODE

At the University of West Georgia, we believe that academic and personal integrity are based upon honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Students at West Georgia assume responsibility for upholding the honor code. West Georgia students pledge to refrain from engaging in acts that do not maintain academic and personal integrity. These include, but are not limited to, plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, aid of academic dishonesty, lying, bribery or threats, and stealing.

The University of West Georgia maintains and monitors a confidential Academic Dishonesty Tracking System. This database collects and reports patterns of repeated student violations across all the Colleges, the Ingram Library, and the School of Nursing. Each incidence of academic dishonesty is subject to review and consideration by the instructor, and is subject to a range of academic penalties including, but not limited to, failing the assignment and/or failing the course. Student conduct sanctions range from verbal warning to suspension or expulsion depending on the magnitude of the offense and/or number of offenses. The incident becomes part of the student's conduct record at UWG.

Additionally, the student is responsible for safeguarding his/her computer account. The student's account and network connection are for his/her individual use. A computer account is to be used only by the person to whom it has been issued. The student is responsible for all actions originating through his/her account or network connection. Students must not impersonate others or misrepresent or conceal their identities in electronic messages and actions. For more information on the University of West Georgia Honor Code, please see the [Student Handbook](#).

UWG EMAIL POLICY

University of West Georgia students are provided a MyUWG e-mail account. The University considers this account to be an official means of communication between the University and the student. The purpose of the official use of the student e-mail account is to provide an effective means of communicating important university related information to UWG students in a timely manner. It is the student's responsibility to check his or her email.

Academic Honesty – Plagiarism

Do not plagiarize.

Plagiarism is generally considered to be borrowing the work of others in any shape or form and claiming that it is yours.

For example, copying and pasting a paragraph from Wikipedia in your paper without citation is plagiarism. (Even if you alter several words in it). If you put it into quotation marks, then it isn't plagiarism. (It then becomes poor use of a quotation, but that affects your grade differently than plagiarism).

Our school has a discussion of this in the [handbook](#):

Penalties for plagiarism: This is at the discretion of the instructor, depending on how egregious the plagiarism is. Previous penalties have included zero for a portion of an exam; zero for an assignment; zero for the course.

Expected Response times

Students can expect me or my GRA to be in the online discussion at least three days per week, primarily during weekdays, but I will check in once during the weekend. Online discussions will be graded within 5 days of the due date and will contain feedback on what you did well and what you can do to improve. Document Analyses will be graded within 5 days of the due date. I will make every attempt to return major assignments within 7-10 days, but the amount of feedback required may extend that time.

Expectations of Students

Course Structure: This is an online course, with all work and examinations completed remotely. Emphasis has been placed on reading and interpreting original documents, with a secondary focus on learning about different civilizations, cultures and religions around the world.

You should expect to spend 3 to 5 hours a week reading for the class. You should also expect to spend 2 to 3 hours a week working on class assignments (whether online or off). In weeks where you are writing an essay, there is likely to be an uptick in time spent preparing for class.

Course and UWG Policies

Attendance Policy: I urge students to attend class, as part of your grade will be determined within the class (participation), and a major assignment (Final Exam) will be based on lectures and discussion in class. In addition, useful information concerning both subject matter and assignments will be given in class.

Statement: If you are a student who is disabled as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act and require assistance or support services, please seek assistance through the [Center for Disability](#). UWG also provides [Accessibility Statements for Technology](#) that you may be required to use for this course.

For more information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, UWG Email, Credit Hour, and UWG Honor Code policies as well as information on Academic Tutoring, Student Services, and Technical Requirements, Privacy Policy, and Accessibility Statements, please see the [Common Language for Syllabus](#) document.

I strongly recommend that students make an electronic copy of everything submitted to me via the dropbox.

Additional Support Information

Technical Support

Technical support for CourseDen, as well as the technological requirements, accessibility statements, privacy statements, tutorials, and other information can be found at [UWG Online Student Help](#).

Center for Academic Success

The new [Center for Academic Success](#) (CAS) provides services, programs, and opportunities to help all undergraduate students succeed academically. The CAS offers free appointment-based peer tutoring in core courses, as well as supplemental instruction (SI)—which is peer-facilitated collaborative learning—in a variety of disciplines. Students seeking help with study skills and strategies can attend workshops through the Academic Success Workshop series, or work individually with either a staff or peer Academic Coach. Beginning Fall 2014, the CAS will also offer “Back on Track,” a voluntary academic recovery program designed for students who want to improve their grades and academic standing. The Center for Academic Success is located in UCC 200, and can be reached at [678-839-6280](tel:678-839-6280). Our email address is cas@westga.edu.

Student Services

Here is a great resource of [Student Services](#) for all students at UWG, whether or not they are taking online courses. This link provides students with most of the information they need. If a student is experiencing distress and needs some help, check out [UWG Cares](#).

Full URL Support for Courses

<p><u>Our CourseDen D2L Home Page</u></p>	<p><u>Student Services</u></p>
<p>D2L UWG Online Help (8 AM – 5 PM) http://uwgonline.westga.edu/students.php Call: 678-839-6248 or 1-855-933-8946 or email: online@westga.edu</p>	<p><u>Center for Academic Success</u> 678-839-6280</p>
<p><u>24/7/365 D2L Help Center</u> Call 1-855-772-0423 or search:</p>	<p><u>Distance Learning Library Services</u></p>
<p><u>University Bookstore</u></p>	<p><u>Ingram Library Services</u></p>
<p><u>Common Language for Course Syllabi</u></p>	<p><u>Proctored Exams</u></p>
<p><u>UWG Cares</u></p>	<p><u>Student Services</u></p>
<p><u>Center for Disability</u></p>	<p><u>UWG Accessibility Statements for Technology</u></p>

Schedule

1	Before Heian			
	Jan 7	Introduction		
	Jan 9	Before Heian	Lu, chapter I [Courseden -CD] Prince Shotoku's Constitution	
2	Heian Japan over time			
	Jan 14	Heian	<i>Tale of Genji</i> (Ch. 1, 4) [CD] <i>Diary of Lady Murasaki</i> [CD]	SR #1 – Diary of L Murasaki
	Jan 16	A Modern View of Heian	Rashomon, the movie "Rashomon", the short story "In a Grove"	
3	Buddhism and Japan			
	Jan 21	MLK DAY	NO Class	
	Jan 23	Buddhism & Japan	"Buddha: Four Documents" [CD] Two essays from <i>Zen for Americans</i> [CD]	
4	Tales of Heike			
	Jan 28	TH 1	<i>Tales of Heike</i> , 1-71	SR #2 – any section
	Jan 30	TH 2	<i>Tales of Heike</i> , 72-170	
5	Samurai of the 17th Century			
			A. Gordon, 10-34	
	Feb 4	An American's Take	Usagi Yojimbo – Grasscutter	SR#3 – whole book
	Feb 6	Tokugawa & the solution to uncertainty	Vaporis, #11-14; Lu Chapter VII, #1-2, 7-17 [CD]	
6	What is loyalty? From <i>Chushingura</i> to the collapse of Tokugawa			
			A. Gordon, 35-59	

	Feb 11	Samurai and Tokugawa Japan	Vaporis #6, #22-25, #35, 36 [CD] de Bary, "The Way of the Warrior II", 437-468 [CD] Bunraku Chūshingura Act 11 [Video] 47 Ronin excerpt [Video]	
	Feb 13	Collapse of Tokugawa	Lu, Chapter X, #1-10, 17 [CD] Katsu Kokichi, 71-108, 156-158 [CD] Kikue, Yamakawa. <i>Women of the Mito Domain</i> [CD]	
	FEB 15		Short Paper #1	SP #1 See CD
7	Meiji Japan			
			A. Gordon, 60-112	
	Feb 18	Politics	Lu Chapter XI, # 1, 5-7, 18-20 [CD] "Meiji Emperor," de Bary, 688-693. [CD]	
	Feb 20	Culture	Lu, Chapter XII, #1-2 [CD] <i>Kokoro</i> (excerpts) [CD]	
8	Imperializing Japan			
			A. Gordon, 113-137	
	Feb 25	Japan at War – 1900-1920s	"Throwing Off Asia" De Bary, 804-810 [CD]	
	Feb 27	Living in/under the Japanese Empire	Hildi Kang, <i>Under the Black Umbrella</i> , 6-14, 49-60 [CD] Yamazaka Tomoko, <i>Sandakan brothel no. 8: an episode in the history of lower-class Japanese women</i> , 45-107 [CD]	
9	Between the Wars (WWI & WWII)			
			A. Gordon, 138-201	
	Mar 4	1920s – Politics and Culture...	Scenes from Earthquake of 1923 de Bary, <i>Sources of Japanese Tradition</i> , Revolutionary Nationalism, 948-966 [CD] "Conference on the Limitation of Armaments" 1922	
	Mar 5		Final Paper: Topic due	Topic
	Mar 6	Great Depression to Great War	"My Big Emergency" (1936) de Bary, <i>Sources of Japanese Tradition</i> , "A Plan to Occupy Manchuria" and others 986-1005 [CD]	
	Mar 10		Short Paper #2 due	SP 2 See CD

10	World War II			
			A. Gordon, 202-223	
	Mar 11	East Asia	<i>Japan at War: An Oral History</i> , 29-46, 121-134, 145-168 [CD] Hildi Kang, 123-138 [CD] Nanjing Massacre, NYTimes [CD]	
	Mar 13	The Pacific	FD Roosevelt, "A Day in Infamy" [CD] <i>Japan at War: An Oral History</i> , 69-94, 293-336 [CD]	
	Mar 15		Bibliography: Secondary sources due	
11	Mar 18-23		Spring Break	
12	The Atom Bomb			
			A. Gordon, 224-240 Various documents on Atom Bomb [CD]	
	Mar 25		Virtual Class – work on your final paper	
	Mar 27	The West and Hiroshima	<i>Hiroshima</i> (J Hershey) "Hiroshima, Mon Amour" [excerpts]	SR #4 Any interview
	Mar 29		Final Paper: Thesis and Outline due	Thesis & Outline
13	The Bomb Continued			
			A. Gordon, 243-288	
	Apr 1	The Fallout Continues	<i>Barefoot Gen</i> and "I Saw it" Barefoot Gen (movie; 1983) [excerpts] De Bary, <i>Sources</i> , 1278-1298 [CD] Tokyo War Crimes Trial	SR#5 either Barefoot gen or "I saw It"
	Apr 3	Post War Japan (1960s-1990)	C Johnson, MITI and the Japanese Miracle [CD] Gojira [original Godzilla] excerpts De Bary, <i>Sources</i> , "The Consumer Revolution in Postwar Japan, 1960" 1100-1112 [CD]	
14	Postwar Japan – society			
			A. Gordon, 289-335	
	Apr 8		<i>Autobiography of a Geisha</i>	SR #6 – any chapter
	Apr 10		<i>Autobiography of a Geisha</i>	

	Apr 12		Final Paper: 1st Draft due	1st Draft
15	A Post-apocalyptic View of the World			
	Apr 15		<i>Akira</i>	
	Apr 17		<i>Akira</i> – continued	
16	Japan since 2000			
			A. Gordon, 336-355	
	Apr 22	Japan since 2000	TBA	
	Apr 24	TBA	TBA	
	Apr 26		Final Paper: Final Draft due	Final Draft
17	Review for Final Exam			
	Apr 29	Review for Final Exam		
	May 1	11:00-1:00	Final Exam	