

**Syllabus**  
**History 394: Traditional Japan**

HIST 394: TRADITIONAL JAPAN  
3 Units

This course studies the social, political, economic, and cultural traditions in Japan from ancient times to the fall of the Tokugawa regime.

After completing this course students will be able to:

- describe the evolution of Japanese traditions from ancient times to the Tokugawa Dynasty.
- write analyses of the philosophical, political, social, and cultural foundations of Japanese society.
- develop explanations of the forces that contributed to the continuity and transformation of Japan

COURSE TEXTS

The following books are REQUIRED readings for this semester.

*Premodern Japan: A Historical Survey* (Paperback)  
by Mikiso Hane  
Publisher: Westview Press (November 28, 1990)  
ISBN-10: 0813380650  
ISBN-13: 978-0813380650

*Across the Perilous Sea: Japanese Trade with China and Korea from the Seventh to the Sixteenth Centuries* (Paperback) by Charlotte Von Verschuer (Author)  
Publisher: Cornell University East Asia Series (November 2, 2006)  
ISBN-10: 1933947330  
ISBN-13: 978-1933947334

*The Tales of the Heike* (Translations from the Asian Classics) [ABRIDGED] (Paperback)  
by Burton Watson (Author), Haruo Shirane (Editor)  
Publisher: Columbia University Press; abridged edition (February 25, 2008)  
ISBN-10: 0231138032  
ISBN-13: 978-0231138031

*Fertility And Pleasure: Ritual And Sexual Values in Tokugawa Japan* [ILLUSTRATED] (Hardcover) by William R. Lindsey  
Publisher: University of Hawaii Press; illustrated edition (December 30, 2006)  
ISBN-10: 0824830369

ISBN-13: 978-0824830366

*The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto* (A Philip E. Lilienthal book) (Paperback)

by Mary Elizabeth Berry

Publisher: University of California Press (March 20, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520208773

ISBN-13: 978-0520208773

These books will constitute the major body of material and ideas that we will be discussing and dealing with this semester. They will also provide you with the raw materials of your out-of-class writing assignments and your examinations.

### READING ASSIGNMENTS

Below is a calendar of your reading assignments, class assignments, and examinations. Unless otherwise altered, this schedule will be followed. It is incumbent upon you to KNOW THESE SCHEDULES because failure to do so does not constitute a legitimate excuse for not fulfilling your responsibilities in a timely fashion.

Date	Reading	Other
August 27	Hane, Chapter 1	
September 3	Hane, Chapter 2	Map assignment due
September 10	Hane , Chapter 3	
September 17	Hane, Chapter 4	Mid-term exam due
September 24	<i>The Tales of the Heike</i>	
October 1	Hane 5	<i>The Tales of the Heike</i> paper due
October 8	<i>The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto</i>	
October 15	Hane, Chapter 6	<i>The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto</i> paper due
October 22	<i>Across the Perilous Sea</i>	
October 29	Hane, Chapter 7	<i>Across the Perilous Sea</i> paper due
November 5	Hane, Chapter 8	
November 12	Hane, Chapter 9	
November 19	Hane, Chapter 10	
November 26	<b>Thanksgiving</b>	
December 3	<i>Fertility And Pleasure</i>	
December 10	Final Exam	<i>Fertility And Pleasure</i> paper due

### OUT-OF-CLASS WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

You will have to write three (3) essays based the three outside readings. An essay can be defined as a short written composition focusing on a single subject in which the author

presents a viewpoint supported logic, factual data or both. An essay is also characterized by a clear and appropriate flow of ideas all related to and augmenting both the topic and the author's point of view. Finally, it is expected that these out-of-class essays will conform to the standard technical rules governing the use of written English including those pertaining to spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

For each separate essay, you must focus on one (1) of the questions that I provide pertaining to that particular book and do your best, using the book itself and any other material (especially the text book) you care to, to fully and completely answer the question or address the issue presented you. If you wander off the topic, select your own book, develop your own question or questions to answer -- you will most assuredly do poorly on the assignment!

### EXAMINATIONS

There will be two (2) Take-home examinations during the course of the semester a mid-term and a final. These examinations will ask you to address issues developed in your readings, assignments and class material. You are responsible for topics and themes not discussed in class, but are in your readings.

### GRADING SCALE

The grading scale of this class is really very simple. There may or may not be options for students to earn "Class Participation Points" during our class sessions. Each exam is worth 100 points and each writing assignment is worth 100 points. At the end of the semester I take the student who has earned the highest number of points to set the upper range of the grading scale. From there, I will calculate As, Bs, Cs, etc. according to the following ratio: 90% of the top score creates the range of As, 80% creates the range for Bs, 70% for Cs, and 60% for Ds.

To help you know where you are in the class, I shall post grades on the WebPages as we go along. Identities will be protected, but you can monitor your progress and get a good idea of where you are in the "race" as we proceed.

### CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Honesty and truthfulness are very important concepts to me and therefore I take dishonesty very seriously. Any student found cheating on an examination will receive an automatic F for the course. Any student guilty of plagiarism on a written assignment will receive an automatic F on that assignment. Plagiarism shall be defined as the act of taking the ideas, thoughts, or words of another and passing them of as your own original ideas, thoughts or words. A good rule of thumb to follow to avoid any possible problem with plagiarism is that any time you copy or use three consecutive words from some other author, you had better use quotation marks and provide a full footnote citation to clearly designate that you are using someone else's ideas.

## CLASS ATTENDANCE

I expect you to attend class regularly.

## EXTRA CREDIT

Traditionally, I am quite open minded about the creation of extra-credit options for students who care to expand on their learning, further plumb their interests and/or simply improve their grades. I have one absolute requirement, though, that must be adhered to regarding all extra-credit options. The work and the focus of attention must be specifically pertinent to this class. No topics or themes relating to other classes, other periods of history, or other national experiences will be considered acceptable. Therefore, a report on the reign of Ivan the Terrible in Moscow, though perhaps very good and riveting history, would not be acceptable as extra-credit in this class.