History 4490  
Premodern Japan  

Fall 2011, TTH 2:00-3:15PM  
Social Sciences 3010  

Masako N. Racel, Ph.D., Instructor  
Office: Social Science 4098  
Office Hours:  TTH 9:30-10:45AM, 12:30-1:45PM and by appointment  
(770) 423-6715  
email: ksuhistory@hotmail.com  
website: http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~mracel/  

Prerequisite:  HIST 1110 (Introduction to World History)  

Course Description  

This special topics course provides a basic survey of the major political, economic, social, cultural and intellectual developments of the Japanese archipelagos from the earliest times to 1600.  The course emphasizes Japan's interactions with outside world and how the indigenous and foreign elements were combined to create the basis of Japanese society.

Course objectives:

This course aims at providing the students a basic survey of Japanese history from the Jōmon Era (Pre-historic) to the Battle of Sekigahara (1600) that established the ascendancy of the Tokugawa family.  It also aims at enabling students to gain a deeper understanding of the Japanese historical experiences by introducing some of the major primary sources in English translation.

Textbooks:


OR


Other reading materials and supplemental materials will be provided through your instructor’s website, http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~mracel/ or

Many of the materials provided through the website will require the Adobe Acrobat Reader which can be downloaded for free from www.adobe.com  To obtain the password for protected documents, visit WebCT Vista: http://vista.kennesaw.edu/  Only registered students will be able to access the WebCT site.

Attendance / Participation / Class Decorum:  Class attendance is mandatory.  Roll will be taken every class.  Students should make a strong, good-faith effort to attend every class.  Students with no or a few legitimate and documented absences may be granted a slight curve if the student's final grade is borderline.  If you have to miss a class, please send your instructor an email as soon as possible (within 48 hours) and explain the reason(s) why you had to miss a class.  Documentation is required where appropriate.
Students who have 6 or more unexcused and undocumented absences will automatically fail this course. If you find yourself in a situation that forces you to miss classes, contact your instructor as soon as possible. **If you cannot make a commitment to attend classes regularly, withdraw from this course.** All students are responsible for the material covered in class. If you miss class, the responsibility is on the student to acquire notes etc. from a classmate and **not** from the instructor.

In an attempt to create an efficient learning environment, disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated. Some examples of disruptive behaviors include arriving late and/or leaving early, moving around and/or leaving the classroom, and talking to your neighbor. If you cannot make a commitment to attend classes regularly, withdraw from this course. **It is very distracting to instructor and other students when you leave and return to the room during class, so PLEASE don’t leave unless you have some sort of genuine emergency.** If you have to leave class early, please let your instructor **know at the beginning of class.** Failure to comply with these requests will not only result in a penalty towards your attendance, but may also result in your dismissal from the classroom.

**IMPORTANT Notice:** Use of any personal electronic devices, including laptop computers, iPods, MP3 players, cell phones, blackberries, are **NOT** permitted in the classroom. These devices have shown themselves to be sources of distraction and disruption of the class time. Failure to turn off these devices will result in a reduction of the student’s final grade by 5% for each interruption. In cases where there is a legitimate need for one of these devices, they may be approved by the instructor after a formal request that must include appropriate documentation for why the device is needed. After a review of the request, the instructor may grant permission to use the needed device.

**Grading:** The following grading system will be used to determine your final grade

A= 90.00% or higher  B=89.99-80.00%  C=79.99-70.00%  D=69.99-60.00%  F=Below 60%

**Two exams (Midterm and Final Exams: 20% each)**

A Research Paper (40%)

**Attendance / Participation / Pop quiz / Assignment: 20 %**

**Pop Quizzes/ Assignments:** It is important for students to keep up with the all the reading materials in this class. Some of the reading materials used in the course are not easy, and may require you to read more than one time. Quiz formats are at the discretion of your instructor. If your instructor suspects that many students are not keeping up with the readings, it is likely you will have more quizzes. One lowest quiz grade will be dropped. There will be absolutely no make-up quizzes. If you are absent when a quiz is given, you will receive zero points for that quiz grade.

If you feel the need to question or discuss essay grade, submit a **TYPED REQUEST** along with copy of your essay to the instructor who will then provide a more detailed explanation for you in writing. All questions must be submitted in writing to the instructor on the next scheduled class day following the return of a test or other assignment. **AFTER THE NEXT SCHEDULED CLASS ALL ARGUMENTS WILL BE CONSIDERED CLOSED AND THE INSTRUCTOR WILL NO LONGER BE WILLING TO DISCUSS MATTERS RELATING TO PREVIOUS TESTS OR ASSIGNMENTS.** Submitting request for review of your essay usually does not result in change of your essay grade (since there are usually valid reason for deduction of some points as well as for fairness to other students) unless you submit a very strong argument.

**Make-up exams will be given only reluctantly.** If a student knows that they will have to miss an exam during the semester, they are required to let the instructor know at least two weeks in advance of the test date. (No exams will be given prior to scheduled exam day). If some unforeseen tragedy or other unavoidable situation forces you to miss an exam, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible (Preferably before the date of the class to be missed, but absolutely **NO later than next scheduled class meeting**). The merits of your situation will be judged by the instructor on whether or not they deserve consideration. **A Typed request for a make-up exam, which includes your name, telephone number, e-mail address, and reason for missing the exam, written documentation and or other evidence of circumstance such as a doctor’s note, newspaper obituary, court receipt etc. and a telephone number for verification of your claim will be required by the instructor in order to consider your request for a make-up exam.** In the case of all documentation, students are required to bring both the original and a photocopy for the instructor to keep. Failure to provide all necessary documents will result in some form of penalty, including the refusal of a make-up exam. Students are almost never allowed to make-up more than one exam during a semester. **Format of the makeup exam is at discretion of your instructor.**
Withdrawal: October 12, 2011 is the last day students can withdraw from this course without academic penalty. A student may withdraw online at www.kennesaw.edu, under Owl Express, Student Services. Failure to officially withdraw from the class will result in receiving “F” for the course grade.

Contacting the Instructor: The best way to contact your instructor is through e-mail ksuhistory@hotmail.com. Be sure to include your name and telephone number as well as your instructor’s name. DO NOT send any attachments. DUE TO VIRUS RISKS, ALL EMAIL CONTAINING ATTACHMENTS WILL BE DELETED, UNOPENED BY THE MAIL ACCOUNT’S SOFTWARE. All correspondence must be included in the text of the email. Any abuse of this account will be prosecuted by the University. DO NOT CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR AT PERSONAL RESIDENCE UNLESS GIVEN SPECIFIC PERMISSION TO DO SO BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to be familiar and to comply with the regulations regarding academic honesty as described in the Kennesaw State University Catalog.

(Excerpt from Catalog)

II. Academic Honesty
The high quality of education at Kennesaw State University is reflected in the credits and degrees its students earn. The protection of these high standards is crucial since the validity and equity of the University's grades and degrees depend upon it. Any student found guilty of an infraction of a regulation for academic honesty shall be suspended for at least one semester unless evidence is provided to convince the court that substantial mitigating circumstances existed in that student's offense.

The following regulations are designed to assist students in developing appropriate standards and attitudes with respect to academic honesty. To this end, the regulations protect students against infractions that may compromise the validity of their degree or place them at an undue disadvantage with respect to the equity of their grades.

A. Plagiarism and Cheating
No student shall receive, attempt to receive, knowingly give or attempt to give unauthorized assistance in the preparation of any work required to be submitted for credit as part of a course (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.) When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated; when the language, ideas, theories, data, figures, graphs, programs, electronic based information or illustrations of someone other than the student are incorporated into a paper or used in a project, they should be duly acknowledged.

B. Unauthorized Access to Official University Materials
No student shall take or attempt to take, steal, or in an unauthorized manner otherwise procure, gain access to, alter or destroy any material pertaining to the conduct of a class (including tests, examinations, grade change forms, grade rolls, roll books, laboratory equipment, university grade records in written or computerized form, etc.).

C. Misrepresentation, Falsification of University Records or Academic Work
No student shall knowingly provide false information in completing university forms or applications (including admissions forms, scholarship applications, time sheets, use of false or counterfeit transcripts, etc.) or in any work submitted for credit as part of a course.

D. Malicious Removal, Retention, or Destruction of Library Materials
No student shall misplace, take, or destroy or attempt to misplace, take or destroy any item or part of an item belonging to or in the protection of the university library with the intention of bringing about an undue disadvantage in the classroom work of other Kennesaw State University students.

E. Malicious/Intentional Misuse of Computer Facilities and/or Services
The malicious or intentional misuse of computer facilities and services is prohibited. Violation of state and federal laws (including copyright violations, unauthorized access or systems, alteration/damage/destruction, or attempted alteration/damage/destruction, use for profit, etc.) or a department's rules for computer usage (including account violations, damage or destruction of the system and/or its performance, unauthorized copying of electronic information, use of threatening or obscene language, etc.) is prohibited. (See Academic Computing User Policies in the Academic Services and Policies section of the undergraduate catalog).

F. Student Identification Cards
1. Lending, selling, or otherwise transferring a student identification card is prohibited, as is the use of an identification card by anyone other than its original holder.
2. No student shall obtain under false pretenses any additional student identification cards.
3. A student must present proper credentials to properly identified university faculty and staff upon their request while these persons are in the performance of their duties.

Students found violating any of these policies (especially plagiarism and cheating) WILL AUTOMATICALLY FAIL this course and be turned over to the appropriate school authorities for further prosecution. There will be no exceptions. **If you need help in adding citations, speak to your instructor about the proper way to document your work.**

**Copyright:** All the material covered in this class, including lectures, is copyrighted. Except as permitted under the United States Copyright Act of 1976, no part may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means, or stored in a database or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publishers and in the case of discussions or lectures, the instructor, Masako N. Racel.
HIST 4490 Premodern Japan (Fall 2011) Tentative schedule
- The instructor reserves the right to amend the schedule.
- Special topics may be covered anytime at the instructor’s discretion.

Keene = Donald Keene, *Anthology of Japanese Literature*
WEB = [http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~mracel/](http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~mracel/)

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<td>Schirokauer, pp. 134-142 (CH. Early Japan, “----Yayoi Culture,” Sources, pp. 3-6, 8-9; 6-8.</td>
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<td>Lesson 3: Kokun Era</td>
<td>Schirokauer, pp. 143-152 (CH. Early Japan to 794, “Political Social Developments----The Late Tomb Period) Sources, pp.9-10. WEB, &quot;Yamato Takeru&quot;</td>
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<td>Lesson 4: Shinto and Japanese Mythology</td>
<td>Sources, pp.13-28</td>
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<td>Schirokauer, pp.156-171 (CH. Early Japan, Nara as a Center and Symbol---- The End of the Nara Period) Sources, pp. 100-108. Keene, pp. 19-30; 33-52 (From <em>Manyōshū</em>) WEB, &quot;Sakimoris' Songs&quot;</td>
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<td>Lesson 7: Early Heian Era</td>
<td>Schirokauer, pp.174-180 (CH. Heian Japan, -- -- Government and Administration)</td>
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<td>Sources, pp.203-210</td>
<td>Keene, pp.179-191.</td>
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<td>WEB, &quot;Yoshitsune&quot;</td>
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<td>Lesson 10: Kamakura Era</td>
<td>Schirokauer, pp. 286-295 (CH Kamakura, “--- The Warrior and His Ideals” Sources, pp.413-417</td>
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<td>Sources, 364-372; 388-393, 396-398 Keene, 286-293.</td>
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<td>Lesson 12: Sengoku to Unification</td>
<td>Schirokauer, pp. 345-353; 329-334.</td>
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<td>WEB, Takeda Shingen and Uesugi Kenshin</td>
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Midterm: September 29, 2011
Last Day to Withdraw from Classes: October 12, 2011
Final Exam: December 8, 2011 (2:00PM)
History 4490: Premodern Japan

Statement of Acknowledgment and Understanding

I have read and understand all the rules and conditions presented in this document. I further understand that it is my responsibility to read the entire document and ask questions of the instructor to clarify any points that I do not understand or that are not clear upon reading. Once this statement has been signed and returned to the instructor it is implied that I understand the contents as they appear and are interpreted by the Instructor, and thus waive any opportunity to ask for clarification or challenge anything presented in the proceeding pages of this document. Interpretation of the contents is solely up to the instructor and is not open to debate at any time with the student. My signature on this document is required in order to qualify to take any exam in this course. Failure to return a signed and unaltered copy of this document to the instructor before the first exam will result in the Instructor’s refusal to allow me to take the exam.

I have read all of the items contained in the entire syllabus and have asked for clarification from the Instructor on any points upon which I needed further clarification.

Printed Name: ________________________________________
Signature: ________________________________________
Date: ____________

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