History 4490
Modern Japan

Fall 2012, TTH 3:30-4:45PM
English Building 166

Masako N. Racel, Ph.D., Instructor
Office: Social Science 4098
Office Hours: TTH 9:15-10:45AM, 12:30-3:15, and by appointment
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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 archipelago from 1500 to the present. The course emphasizes Japan's interactions with outside world and how indigenous and foreign elements were combined to create the basis of modern Japanese society.

Course objectives:

This course aims at providing the students a basic survey of Japanese history from 1500s (warring era, encounter with the Europeans) to the present. It also focuses on enabling students to develop a deeper understanding of the Japanese historical experience by through the use of primary resources (using English translations).

Textbooks:


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/

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 at borderline. If you missed 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 are caught asleep or doing something not related to class will be counted absent. Please also note that regular attendance does not guarantee a passing grade.

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. It is very distracting to instructor and other students when you leave and return to the room during class, so
PLEASE do not 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. Students arriving late or leaving early will be counted “Absent” or “Present” at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to comply with these requests may also result in your dismissal from the classroom.

**Personal Electronic Devices Policy:** Use of any personal electronic devices that will cause any distraction or disruption to you, your professor, or your classmates is not permitted during lecture. Based on these criteria, cell phones, MP3 players or any other devices that will produce any disruptive sounds will not be permitted. Please turn off these devices and put them away. Your cell phone should not be on your desk or in your hand during the lecture. Failure to turn off these devices will result in a reduction of the student’s final grade by 2 points for each interruption.

Students are highly encouraged take notes using paper and pen. If you wish to use voice recorder, laptop computer, tablet computer, or electronic document reader, turn in the **signed agreement form** provided on your instructor's website. You are not allowed to use electronic devices unless you submit your agreement form. Use of electronic devices is permitted only to take notes or to access e-books and documents used in the lecture. You must refrain from accessing any email, social media, playing games or any other activities not related to class. If your instructor finds you engaged in unrelated activities using your personal electronic device, you will not only be counted absent, but you will not be allowed to use it for the remainder of the semester. **No students will be allowed to have access to any electronic devices while taking exams or quizzes.**

**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: 25% each)**

**A Research Paper (35%)**

**Attendance / Participation / Pop quiz / Assignment: 15%**

**Quiz Policies:**

- Most quizzes are given at the beginning of class. Please be punctual, or you will not be allowed to take the quiz and will receive a grade of zero. If you are late on the quiz day, please wait outside of the classroom until everyone is finished taking the quiz and I will allow you into the class. A quiz will take less than 10 minutes to complete.
- The lowest quiz or assignment grade will be dropped.
- If you miss a quiz due to absence or tardiness, you will receive a grade of zero for that quiz. There will be no make-up quizzes since the lowest grade will be dropped. I will make exceptions to this only if a student misses more than one quiz, and then **only in officially sanctioned cases as mandated by school rules** (taking the Regent Test, etc.). Illness is not a reason for being allowed to make up a quiz.
- 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.

**Exam Policies:** 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, 2012 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 results 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.

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 (including examinations, laboratory reports, essays, themes, term papers, etc.). Unless specifically authorized, the presence and/or use of electronic devices during an examination, quiz, or other class assignment is considered cheating. Engaging in any behavior that a professor prohibits as academic misconduct in the syllabus or in class discussion is cheating. When direct quotations are used, they should be indicated, and when the 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. No student may submit the same, or substantially the same, paper or other assignment for credit in more than one class without the prior permission of the current professor(s).

(from Section II-A of the KSU Student Code of Conduct, as modified for Fall semester 2011)

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 data base or retrieval system, without the prior written permission of the publishers and in the case of discussions or lectures, the instructor, Masako N. Racel.

**Important Dates:**
- Midterm: October 2
- Last Day to Withdraw Without Penalty: October 12
- Research Paper Due: November 8
- Final Exam: Dec.11 (3:30-5:30PM)

**Schedule:**
- Please visit [http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~mracel/](http://ksuweb.kennesaw.edu/~mracel/) to obtain reading assignments and study guides.
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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