In 1600 Tokugawa Ieyasu achieved dominance over all Japan, ending more than a century of civil war. His descendants ruled the country as Shoguns for the next 250 years, a period remarkable for its peace and prosperity. This course examines the foundations of the Tokugawas' Japan and what grew upon them, somewhat unexpectedly, in the first century or so of rule.

Our two chief topics will be society and religious culture. After a general introduction, we will turn to the first of these, examining the samurai, farmers, and townspeople who populated seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century Japan. We'll examine the transformation of samurai from professional warriors to professional bureaucrats. We'll discuss the social and economic organization of agricultural families and villages. And then we'll read materials by and about the sophisticated townspeople--their stories, plays and haiku poetry. This part of the course will conclude by spring break. In April we will turn to religious culture, especially the role of Zen Buddhism in the lives of samurai and townsfolk.

We will read fiction and agricultural history, view films, and so on--as wide a variety of activities as possible--and I'll ask you to do a lot of writing. Some of this is indicated on the syllabus, but much of it will be short (generally one-page) papers assigned as we go. Because this writing constitutes part of your preparation for class, it will be important to do it by the due date, and late papers will not be accepted except for medical reasons. I expect that it will take you between three and four hours per class meeting to complete these diverse tasks. I will not put grades on your written work, though I will make extensive comments. However, if you're concerned about your grade at any point in the course, please come see me.

Attendance is required at all class meetings, and more than two absences will adversely affect your grade. This is because our course will be interactive, a process of discussions between all of us--there's no way to get the notes on that. If you do have to miss class, please check with me--I'll usually ask you to write a one-page paper discussing some aspect of that day's classwork.

The course grading will be divided into three equal parts. First, I will give you a cumulative grade on your writing up to spring break, summarizing the work on your (ungraded) papers up to this time. We will meet in my office during the last week of classes prior to break, and I can also give you more general feedback on your work thus far.

Second, I will ask you to grade yourselves for the work that you do subsequent to spring break. Part of that work will include individual oral examinations during the last week of classes in May. We will practice this grading process, and I will give you full guidelines, so that the enterprise is not excessively subjective.

Third, I will ask you to grade yourself on class participation, broadly defined to include in-class contributions, effort and so on. We will need to work together to establish a set of criteria that we all find acceptable.

My office is at 38 College Street. Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 to 10:30 and by appointment. My phone is -3524, and my e-mail address is <kidder>.
The following books should be available for purchase in the bookstore annex:
Basho, *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*
Noel Perrin, *Giving Up the Gun*
Thomas Smith, *Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan*
Conrad Totman, *Japan Before Perry*
van der Wetering, *The Empty Mirror*

Please bring to class the text assigned for that day's reading, since we may want to refer to it in our discussions.