

History/Asian Studies 283  
Searles 113  
TTh 10-11:25  
Thomas Conlan  
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Office hours: Monday:  
10:15-11:30 T: 1:30-  
2:45 and by appointment

## **The Origins of Japanese Culture and Civilization: A History of Japan until 1590**

This course is designed to introduce the culture and history of Japan, and to examine how one understands and interprets the past. In addition to considering how a culture, a society, and a state develop (in other words, how “Japan” comes into existence), we will try to reconstruct the tenor of life in “ancient” and “medieval” Japan and chart how patterns of Japanese civilization shifted through time.

Requirements:

- I. Midterm exam (15%)
- II. Final exam (20%)
- III. Class attendance and participation (20%)
- IV. Papers (40%)

Attendance is mandatory. Please write a 1-2 page paper summarizing readings for any classes that you miss, otherwise your participation grade will suffer.

### Paper guidelines

You have the freedom to determine when you hand in your papers, but you must inform me of your deadlines by September 15. I will only accept papers at the beginning of class. All papers must be double spaced, stapled, and printed single sided. Papers that do not conform to these guidelines will not be accepted. If you fail to hand in your papers on schedule, you will suffer a grade penalty for each class day that you hand in the paper late.

Guidelines for paper deadlines: 1. Papers must be handed in at least two weeks apart. 2. Complete at least one paper by the fifth week of class (Sept. 29/October 1). 3. Please submit your paper schedule by September 15. 4. If you intend to do a longer paper, a prospectus is due by November 3.

Option A:

Four three-page analytical papers, based on three separate readings from the syllabus. Your paper should represent an argument of the significance of a certain aspect of society, rather than praise or blame (look at the writing guidelines on blackboard. Each paper will be worth 10% of your grade.

Option B. 1. Two three-page papers. These will be the same as option A, with each paper constituting 10% of your grade. The longer paper will be worth 20%.  
2. A longer (8-12 page) paper analyzing a historical event, theme or issue. Can use course readings, but should not be limited to them. A single paragraph prospectus is due by November 3.

In addition to these papers, I will ask you to write either 1) analysis of the laws as reflected in a case study (October 15) or 2) a biography of the warrior Takezaki Suenaga (October 20) and this will be incorporated into your participation grade.

Exams will cover class materials and readings, and require mastery of course information, and the ability to make connections and perceive the relative significance of events and processes. Note taking to supplement class outlines is recommended. The in-class bluebook midterm is schedule for October 28 and the final exam will be held in this room on Dec. 18 at 2 pm.

Texts to be purchased (all should be paperback and are also on library reserve):

Conlan, Thomas. State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth-Century Japan Ann Arbor: Center for Japanese Studies, 2003.

Keene, Donald, trans. Essays in Idleness. New York: Columbia University Press, 1967.

Keene, Donald. Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavillion. Columbia: Columbia University Press, 2003.

Morris, Ivan, trans. The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon. New York: Columbia University Press, 1991.

Conlan, Thomas. In Little Need of Divine Intervention. Ithaca, Cornell East Asia Series, 2001.

Other readings are available electronically. In the syllabus, **bold** titles designate required texts

Other titles are available on blackboard under "web resources."

## **WEEK 1**

I. September 3: Introduction: The only thing new is the history that we do not know.

I will provide a brief overview of the mechanics of the class, and an introduction to the geography and earliest habitation in Japan.

Assignment: Print out for your reference a five-page overview of Japanese history through 1590. Refer to helpful sources, such as Encyclopedia Britannica online and the Kodansha encyclopedia of Japan and copy and edit them down to five pages. Due on September 8.

## WEEK 2

II. September 8: Multiple Japans and the Myth of origins. Sujin and Himiko: Co-rulers of “Japan” circa 200

### 1. Himiko Sources

Sources of Japanese Tradition (Second edition), Vol. 1 (Columbia: Columbia University Press, pp. 3-10.

### 2. Sujin Sources

Philippi, trans., The Kojiki (Tokyo University Press, 1968), pp. 199-209 through “Pacification of the Kingdom is completed under Emperor Sujin. His Death.” Pay particular attention to Opo-biko-no mikoto

Compare the oldest written account with the inscription found on a sword dating from AD 471.

Aoki, Records of Wind and Earth (Association for Asian Studies, 1997), pp. 38-42, for references to Sujin (Prince Mimaki) dispatching individuals to conquer Hitachi, and appoint locals as “local strongmen “kuni no miyasuko.” Optional: Look at the references to Sujin from Hizen, in Northern Kyushu, *ibid.* pp. 249-52.

III. September 10: Prince Shotoku, and the Early Yamato State

### The Fundamental Law (Kenpō) of Prince Shōtoku

Lu, Japan: A Documentary History. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1997, pp. 26-36 for the Taika administrative code and the 646 Taika edict of “Great Change.”

Keene, The Manyōshū: The Nippon Gakujutsu Shinkokai Translation of One thousand Poems (New York: Columbia University Press, 1965), pp. 3-14, 28-37, 172-79, 252-62. Pay attention to the former, relating to gods, mountains and emperors, and the latter accounts by conscripted soldiers.

## WEEK 3

IV. September 15: Buddhism, Nara State and the Cosmic Buddha  
**Schedule for paper submissions due today!**

### Buddhism and the Nara State

Lu, Japan: A Documentary History. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1997, pp. 46-50

Nakamura, trans., Miraculous Stories from the Japanese Buddhist Tradition: The *Nihon ryōiki* of the Monk Kyōkai (Cambridge Mass: Harvard University Press, 1973), pp. 99-110, 116-18; 132-33, 158-60; 163-64; 171-75, 180-83, 197-99, 212-16 (Note, pp. 212-13 describes Tachibana Naromaro. For his rebellion, see below).

## Shōmu and Rebellions

Sansom, "The Imperial Edicts in the Shoku Nihongi," Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Second Series, volume 1, 1923-24, edicts 12-13, describing Shomu's subservience to the Cosmic Buddha in 749, and praise for the discovery of gold, pp. 26-31.

Keene, The Manyōshū: The Nippon Gakujutsu Shinkokai Translation of One thousand Poems, pp. 150-59 for congratulatory poems regarding the discovery of gold.

Ross Bender, trans. "The Suppression of the Tachibana Naramoro Conspiracy" p. 1-21.  
2.20.09 translation of the Shoku Nihongi passages relating to a 757 rebellion of Tachibana Naramaro against Shomu.

## V. September 17: Moving the capital to Heian

"Edicts of the Empress Shotoku concerning Dōkyō," Sources of Japanese Tradition (Second edition), Vol. 1. Columbia: Columbia University Press, pp. 119-20.

Philippi, trans., "To Drive Away a Vengeful Deity," "Presenting Offerings on Dispatching an Envoy to China," Norito: A Translation of Ancient Japanese Ritual Prayers (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990), pp. 68-71.

Nihon Montoku Jitsuroku, pp. 195-208; 216-21, 242-43, 272-78, 298-306, 388-89, 501, 548, 554-55. Pay particular attention to the obituary of Fujiwara Fubito on p. 204-6, his practice of writing Japanese and Chinese poetry on p. 242-43 and 501, and biographies of governors on 272-78 and 298-306. Finally for campaigns in the north, see pp. 388-89, 548 and for a warrior governor, p. 554-555.

For sources depicting the deification of Sugawara Michizane, a disgraced Chinese scholar, during the tenth century, see a thirteenth century account by Jien, a Fujiwara priest, entitled,

The Future and the Past: A Translation and study of the Gukanshō and interpretive history of Japan written in 1219, pp. 42-44. For more on Michizane's apotheosis and the Kitano scrolls,

Borgen, Sugawara Michizane and the Early Heian Court. Cambridge: Harvard East Asian Monographs, pp. 320-25

Finally, view the scrolls at:

[http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/kitanomaki/kitano\\_home.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/kitanomaki/kitano_home.htm)

## WEEK 4

## VI. September 22: Rule By Taste

**Morris**, trans. The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon, pp. 21-50; 52-55; 64-65; 67-73; 76-79; 109-112; 114-18, 216-18, 254-59.

Lu, Japan A Documentary History, pp. 72-73, 75-79

Sansom, "The Testament of Lord Kujo," A History of Japan to 1334 (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1958), pp. 180-183.

Jien "Japan's Three Ages," in Brown, trans., The Future and the Past: A Translation and study of the Gukanshō and interpretive history of Japan written in 1219, pp. 58-59.

Ury, trans. Tales of Times Now Past (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), pp. 134-38; 150-52; 165-67.

VII September 24: The Latter Heian Era: Governors, Retired Emperors and estates (shōen).

**Morris**, trans. The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon, pp. 146-62; 170-76, 196-99.

Morris, trans. As I Crossed the Bridge of Dreams (Penguin Books, 1971), pp. 31-53, 64-68, 75-82. Composed by the daughter of a provincial governor who briefly served at court.

Ury, trans. Tales of Times Now Past, pp. 172-98.

#### Accounts of Retired Emperors

Jien, in Brown, trans. The Future and the Past: A Translation and study of the Gukanshō and interpretive history of Japan written in 1219 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), pp. 78-79

Hiroshi Kitagawa and Bruce Tsuchida, trans., The Tale of the Heike. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1975, "The Vow" pp. 60-66, which discusses the power of the retired emperors, a protest by the monks of Mt. Hiei and the story of the Kanpaku, or Fujiwara regent.

### **WEEK 5**

VIII. September 29: The Rule of Retired Emperors and the "Rise" of Warriors

Mass, "The Taira before Kiyomori," Yoritomo and the Founding of the First Bakufu (Stanford, Stanford University Press, 1999), pp. 14-31.

Jien, "The Hogen Rebellion," in Brown, trans. The Future and the Past: A Translation and study of the Gukanshō and interpretive history of Japan written in 1219 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), pp. 100-4, "The Heiji Rebellion, pp. 110-16.

View the Heiji scroll site and read the translation of the passage

<http://learn.bowdoin.edu/heijiscroll>

IX October 1: The Genpei War and the Founding of the Kamakura bakufu

Mass, "The Genpei War," "The Four Corners," "A Place in the Sun," Yoritomo and the Founding of the First Bakufu, pp. 71-95, 133-47; 168-87.

Conlan, Translated Documents

Hiroshi Kitagawa and Bruce Tsuchida, trans., The Tale of the Heike. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1975, pp. 5-6; 547-68, 668-692; 789-794.

Conlan, trans. "The Ten Foot Square Hut." Translation of Kamo no Chomei's masterful 1212 essay.

Jien, "The Taira Defeat and the Imperial Regalia" in Brown, trans., The Future and the Past: A Translation and study of the Gukanshō and interpretive history of Japan written in 1219 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), pp. 142-146

### **WEEK 6**

X October 6: Heaven, Hell and “New Buddhism”

A.K. Reischauer, trans., “Genshin’s Ojo Yoshu: Collected Essays on Birth Into Paradise,” Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Second Series, volume 7, 1930, pp. 25-49; 68-81.

Brown, trans. The Future and the Past: A Translation and study of the Gukanshō and interpretive history of Japan written in 1219 (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979), pp. 168-75 (focus on attitudes toward Honen).

Tsunoda, Sources of Japanese Tradition I. New York: Columbia University Press, 1958, pp. 197-203 (Honen) and 216-225 (Nichiren)

Watson, Selected Writings of Nichiren. New York: Columbia University Press, 1990, pp. 42-49.

Dobbins, Letters of the Nun Eshinni: Images of Pure Land Buddhism in Medieval Japan (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2004), pp. 23-42. Eshinni was the wife of the priest Shinran, and these letters are a rich source about Kamakura religion and society.

XI. October 8: Etiquette, Frugality and Violence: The Rise of the Hōjō

Conlan, Translated documents

Steenstrup, “Letter to Nagatoki,” in Hōjō Shigetoki. London: Curzon Press, 1979, pp. 143-157.

Steenstrup, “The Gokurakuji Letter. Hojo Shigetoki’s Compendium of Political and Religious Ideas of Thirteenth-Century Japan,” Monumenta Nipponica 32 no. 1 (Spring 1977), pp. 1-34.

**Keene**, Essays in Idleness, pp. 157-58.

**WEEK 7**

XII. October 13. **Fall vacation!**

XIII October 15: Kamakura Justice

Conlan, revised translation of the 1232 Jōei Code

Mass, The Development of Kamakura Rule. (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1979), “Bakufu Justice: A Case Study,” docs. 138-44, pp. 270-76.

**Keene**, Essays in Idleness, pp. 173, story 209.

**Conlan**, State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth Century Japan, pp. 107-118; 194-208 (until the middle of the page which states “When Go Daigo”).

**Assignment: Analyze the principles behind Kamakura law, or how the judicial system functioned as evident in the law code and the Mass case study in a short 2-3 page paper (due today) or look ahead and work on a biography of the Kamakura warrior Takezaki Suenaga.**

## WEEK 8

XIV. October 20: The Mongol Invasions and Late Kamakura Society

**Conlan**, In Little Need of Divine Intervention (Cornell: Cornell East Asia Series, 2001), pp. 254-75. Also look at the scrolls and map at:

<http://learn.bowdoin.edu/asian-studies/mongol-invasions/>

**Assignment: Write a biography of Takezaki Suenaga and his age. 2-3 pages if you have not already analyzed Kamakura law.**

**Optional: For the Yuan (Mongol) account of the invasions, read:**

Tsunoda, "New History of the Yuan Dynasty," Japan in the Chinese Dynastic Histories, (P.D. Ione Perkins, 1952) pp. 73-105

XV. October 22: **In-class midterm.**

## WEEK 9

XVI. October 27: Late Kamakura Society, and patterns of inheritance

Brazell, trans., The Confessions of Lady Nijo, pp. 181-95.

**Keene**, Essays in Idleness, pp. 8-9, 37-51, 60-70, 134-41, 163-64; 188-91; 198-99.

Dykstra, "How Saeki Ujinaga met a strong woman, Oigo, who displayed her strength in a dispute over water rights" "Notable Tales Old and New. Tachibana Narisue's Kokon Chomonju," Monumenta Nipponica, Vol. 47.4 (Winter 1992), pp. 484-89

**Conlan**, State of War, pp. 126-130.

Look at the interactive site about the landholdings of Iriki (Iriki landholdings) under blackboard's web resources and explore how inheritance patterns change over time.

XVII. October 29: The Fall of Kamakura and the Fleeting Onset of Absolutism

**Keene**, Essays in Idleness, 84-111.

Conlan, Translated documents and the Nijo parody of Go-Daigo's regime

**Conlan**, State of War, pp. 1-11, 208-210.

Souyri, "War Again: The Fall of the Hojo Regime" The World Turned Upside Down, pp. 110-111. Contrast with a noble account, from Perkins, trans., "The Dayflower," The Clear Mirror, pp. 218-19 (both passages appear in the same pdf file in blackboard).

## WEEK 10

XVIII. November 3: The Culture of Civil War

**Conlan**, State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth Century Japan, pp. 12-82; 118-40; 229-31.

Conlan, Translated documents.

For the account of a Southern Court partisan, Kitabatake Chikafusa, see Varley, trans., A Chronicle of Gods and Sovereigns (Columbia: Columbia University Press, 1980), pp. 241-69, which focuses on the reign of Go-Daigo.

#### XIX. November 5: The Advent of Ashikaga Hegemony

Grossberg, The Laws of the Muromachi bakufu. Tokyo: Sophia University Press, 1981, pp. 16-52. Compare the attitudes found in these laws with **Keene**, Essays in Idleness, pp. 3-7; 16-31; 40-41 (review); 70-84, 171-73.

**Conlan**, State of War: The Violent Order of Fourteenth Century Japan “The Sinews of War,” pp. 83-106; “Largesse and the Limits of Loyalty in the Fourteenth Century,” and “Sacred War,” pp. 141-93.

Baishoron, pp. 249-54

### WEEK 11

#### XX. November 10: The Courtly Society of Ashikaga Yoshimitsu and the creation of a new culture (NØ)

Varley, “Ashikaga Yoshimitsu and the World of Kitayama.” In Hall and Toyoda, eds., Japan in the Muromachi Age. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1977, pp. 183-204.

**Keene**, Essays in Idleness, pp; 31-40; 41-66; 85-171; 173-201.

Keene, 20 Plays of the No Theatre. New York: Columbia University Press, 1970, pp. 1-34.

Waley, “Aoi no Uye” The No Plays of Japan (London: Urwin Paperbacks, 1988), pp. 181-89.

de Bary, “The Vocabulary of Japanese Aesthetics,” Sources of Japanese Tradition, pp. 283-303.

**Conlan**, “The Fourteenth Century’s Legacy,” State of War, pp. 225-229

#### Optional

See how the NØ theatre changed under later shoguns, in **Keene**, Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavillion: The Creation of the Soul of Japan (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003), pp. 153-64

#### XXI. November 12: Tensions and Turmoil under the “High Ashikaga.” The rule of Yoshimochi and Yoshinori

**Keene**, Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavilion: The Creation of the Soul of Japan (New York: Columbia University Press, 2003). Skim the introduction and read pp. 15-61.

Conlan, Translated documents concerning the Akamatsu and the regalia

### WEEK 12

XXII. November 17: The Onin War and Changing Patterns of Culture

**Keene, Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavilion: The Creation of the Soul of Japan**, pp. 63-151; 164-66

Navigate the Japanese garden site, which appears on blackboard.

Arntzen, trans., Ikkyu and the Crazy Cloud Anthology (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1986), pp. 139-42

XXIII. November 19: The Regional Consolidation of Power

Berry, "Dancing is Forbidden," The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994, pp. 55-105, paying particular attention to pp. 55-59; 82-89.

Conlan, Translated documents pertaining to Mori Motonari, his oaths and laws.

Steenstrup, trans., "Hojo Soun's Twenty-One Articles," Monumenta Nipponica 29.3 (1974), pp. 283-303

In Class: Discover your sixteenth century identity

**WEEK 13**

XXIV. Nov. 24: Daimyo lordship: Recreating "Warring States"

Lu, Japan: A Documentary History. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 1997, pp. 175-181, 186. (These passages constitute the laws of the Takeda and the Asakura and a document concerning conscription)

Ryavec, Carole Ann. "Daimyo in the Age of Strife: Takeda Shingen." in Murakami, Hyoe and Thomas Harper, eds. Great Historical Figures of Japan. Tokyo: Japan Culture Institute, 1978: 141-153

**After class, write a report of your actions and electronically notify your classmates**

**Nov. 26: Thanksgiving holiday**

**WEEK 14**

XXV. Dec. 1: Commerce, Trade and Japan in the Fifteenth Century

Suzanne Gay, "Urban Affairs," The Moneylenders of Late Medieval Kyoto, University of Hawaii Press, 2001, pp. 172-200.

Tonomura, "SØ Regulations," Community and Commerce in Late Medieval Japan (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1992), pp. 198-208.

Grossberg, The Laws of the Muromachi bakufu, pp. 81-89; 93-99; 102-112; 114-31; 140-45.

XXVI. Dec. 3: The Encounter with the Jesuits

Pinto, "The Discovery of Japan" through "The Prince's Recovery "Shipwreck off the Ryukyu Islands" through "A Brief Description of the Ryukyu Islands" (chapters 132-143) in Diaz, ed. and trans., The Travels of Mendes Pinto, pp. 272-301.

Pinto, "At the Court of Bungo" through "The Disputations Continue" (chapters 210-213) in Diaz, ed. and trans., The Travels of Mendes Pinto, pp. 474-89

Pinto, "The Farce of the Wooden Hands," Diaz, ed. and trans., The Travels of Mendes Pinto, pp. 513-17.

Liden, "The Record of the Musket—A Translation," Tanegashima: The Arrival of Europe in Japan (Copenhagen, NIAS Press, 2002, pp. 36-42.

## **WEEK 15**

XXVII. Dec. 8: Oda Nobunaga and the "Reunification" of Japan

Fujiki, "The Political Posture of Oda Nobunaga," Japan Before Tokugawa, pp. 149-93.

Lu, Japan A Documentary History, pp. 186-89.

XXVIII. Dec. 10: The Enduring Legacy of Toyotomi Hideyoshi

Berry, "The Pursuit of Legitimacy," in Hideyoshi (Harvard East Asia Monographs, 1982), pp. 168-205.

Lu, Japan A Documentary History, pp. 191-97

**All outstanding written work is due today**

**Final Exam: December 18, 2009 2-5 pm**