HIST 2220: War and Society
MILITARISM IN JAPANESE HISTORY

Fall 2013
MWF 1-1:50
EDUC 220

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From the early use of stone and metal in the archaic period through the post-World War II resurgence of nationalism, experiences of war and the development of military ideologies have exerted transformative and far-reaching effects on Japanese history. This course embeds the events, persons, and philosophies that shaped the course of militarism in Japan within a broader social context. What circumstances within the ancient world gave rise to the samurai class that was to dominate society for six hundred years? Which aspects of the code of the samurai outlived this elite to inspire modern policymakers building a Western-style nation-state and nationalism? How did Japan accept, explain, and obfuscate its responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity during the long years of imperialism culminating in World War II? Why did militarism reappear as an attractive political dogma a generation after occupation by the United States and its allies? In addressing these questions, we tackle a broader question within global history: how do war and militarism cause social change?

The professor will strive to make this course accessible to those with no background in history or Japan; however, students should be prepared to put in the time necessary to master conventions of historical writing and key foreign-language concepts from lectures and course readings (up to 100 pages per week).

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

- Essay I (due Sept. 30) 20%
- Midterm (Oct. 18) 20%
- Essay II (due Nov. 22) 25%
- Final (Dec. 14, 7:30-10 p.m.) 25%
- Attendance and participation 10%

Assignments: Later assignments are weighted more heavily to give students a chance to improve their performance over the course of the semester. Students who are unable to
be present for the midterm or final for a legitimate reason should let the instructor know in advance (if possible) to schedule a make-up exam. Students who do not complete the two exams and submit the two papers will not pass the course, regardless of the quality of their other work. Late essays will be penalized one-third of a letter grade per day. Unless prior permission is received, students must turn in assignments in hard copy before the beginning of class on the due date. Students will receive test preparation guidelines and comprehensive essay instructions in due time.

Attendance and participation: Students are expected to come to each class meeting and speak up during discussions. Students will not perform well on exams or essays unless they attend lectures regularly. Attendance will be periodically monitored by means of a sign-in sheet. It is not necessary to inform the professor or TA of absences or reasons therefore. Students who are unable to attend class may speak to the instructor during office hours and/or ask their peers for notes. The professor’s lecture notes will not be available online, but after each class, a list of key concepts and the PowerPoint accompanying the lecture will be posted on the course website to help students review their own notes.

*Disability Statement:* If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit a letter to me from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, or http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/

*Decorum Statement:* Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which students express opinions. Additional information may be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html

*Honor Code:* All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information on the Honor Code can be found at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html

*Religious Observance:* Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. If you have a potential class conflict because of religious observance, you must inform me of that conflict by the third week of the semester. See policy details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

*Sexual Harassment:* The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus
resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at http://www.colorado.edu/odh/

Books available for purchase (5) at the university bookstore are listed below. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be placed online at Desire2Learn prior to the week in which they are to be read. In cases where the syllabus indicates that the day’s lecture will be devoted to the discussion of a particular reading, students should finish that reading prior to coming to class. No texts beyond those listed on the syllabus are required, but students will only do well in the course if they devote adequate time to mastering the assigned readings.


Week 1
Aug. 26: Course introduction
Aug. 28: Archaic Japan
Aug. 30: Early state formation

Week 2
Sept. 2: NO CLASS (Labor Day)
Sept. 4: *Kojiki*
Sept. 6: NO CLASS (Rosh Hashanah)

Week 3
Sept. 9: Origins of Japanese “feudalism”
Sept. 11: The rise of a military elite
Sept. 13: The Kamakura shogunate

Week 4
Sept. 16: Late medieval politics and culture
Sept. 18: The culture of civil war
Sept. 20: Wars of unification
Week 5
Sept. 23: Centralized feudalism
Sept. 25: The Tokugawa settlement
Sept. 27: *Hagakure* and *The Tale of the Forty-Seven Rōnin*
Tsunetomo, *Hagakure*.

Week 6
Sept. 30: The intellectual world of the Tokugawa samurai
*Paper due by the beginning of class.*
Oct. 2: Bakumatsu Japan
Oct. 4: The Meiji Restoration
Saikaku, *Comrade Loves of the Samurai*, 3-52.

Week 7
Oct. 7: The Meiji military
Oct. 9: The family state
Oct. 11: Origins of imperialism

Week 8
Oct. 14: The Sino-Japanese War
Oct. 16: Review session
Oct. 18: MIDTERM

Week 9
Oct. 21: The Russo-Japanese War
Oct. 23: Imperialism, 1905-1919
Oct. 25: Imperialism, 1919-1932

Week 10
Oct. 28: The Kwantung Army in Manchukuo
Oct. 30: War crimes
Nov. 1: Japanese “fascism”

Week 11
Nov. 4: The home front
Nov. 6: Total war in Asia
Nov. 8: World War II in the Pacific
Week 12
Nov. 11: *Letters from Iwo Jima*
Nov. 13: *Letters from Iwo Jima*
Nov. 15: *Letters from Iwo Jima*
Yoshida, *Requiem for Battleship Yamato*, 63-152.

Week 13
Nov. 18: Total defeat
Nov. 20: Despair and exhaustion
Nov. 22: Demilitarization under the Occupation
*Paper due at the beginning of class.

Week 14
NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Week 15
Dec. 2: The “Peace Constitution”
Dec. 4: *Anpo: Art x War*
Dec. 6: *Anpo: Art x War*

Week 16
Dec. 9: Mishima Yukio and the resurgence of militarism
Dec. 11: Remembering World War II
Dec. 13: Review session