HIST 2220: War and Society
MILITARISM IN JAPANESE HISTORY

Spring 2017
MWF 2-2:50 p.m.
HALE 230

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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? 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 25%
- Midterm (Mar. 10) 20%
- Final exam (May 11, 4:30-7 p.m.) 25%
- Presentation 5%
- Attendance and participation 20%
- Notes 5%
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 take 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 all course assignments (exams, paper, and presentation) will not pass the course, regardless of the quality of their other work.** Unless prior permission is received, students must turn in assignments online by the deadline. Students will receive comprehensive essay and presentation 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 unless they attend lectures regularly. Attendance will be monitored by means of a sign-in sheet. Students who are unable to attend class may speak to the instructor during office hours and/or use posted class notes.

Notes: Each class period, one or more students will be assigned the task of preparing a set of typed lecture notes for common use. Notes should be comprehensive, accurate, and typo-free (though the use of common abbreviations is acceptable). To receive full credit, students must email the professor a Microsoft Word attachment of their notes by 9 p.m. on the day of the lecture. Notes will be evaluated, corrected if necessary, and posted in the “Notes” folder on Desire2Learn (organized by lecture date). Notes received after 9 p.m. but within 24 hours of the end of class may earn partial credit; notes received more than 24 hours after the end of class will receive zero credit. If a student is unable to be present for his or her scheduled note-taking day, it is his/her responsibility to switch dates with another student; in that case, both parties should email the professor regarding the arrangement prior to the class in question. No make-up credit will be given for missed notes.

Electronics policy: The use of cell phones in class is prohibited. Laptops may be used only by the designated note-taker(s) of the day or with a written note of accommodation from Disability Services.

Email policy: Students should follow the Guidelines for Emailing a Professor posted on the course website at Desire2Learn. Emails that do not conform to the guidelines may not receive a reply. You may expect a reply within two business days.

*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/](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](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 (4) at the university bookstore are listed below. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be available in the “Readings” folder on Desire2Learn (under the heading of the author’s last name) prior to the week in which they are to be read. In cases where the professor 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 the syllabus are required, but students will only do well if they devote adequate time to mastering the assigned readings. The length of the readings varies by week.

Books for purchase:


Week 1
Jan. 18: Course introduction
Jan. 20: Archaic Japan

Week 2
Jan. 23: Early state formation
Jan. 25: Kojiki
Jan. 27: Origins of Japanese “feudalism” and the rise of a military elite

Week 3
Jan. 30: Kamakura shogunate
Feb. 1: Late medieval politics and culture
Feb. 3: The culture of civil war
Begin reading Cleary, Samurai Wisdom.

Week 4
Feb. 6: Wars of unification
Feb. 8: Centralized feudalism
Feb. 10: The Tokugawa settlement
Continue reading Cleary, Samurai Wisdom.

Week 5
Feb. 13: The Tale of the Forty-Seven Rōnin
Feb. 15: Samurai Wisdom
Feb. 17: The intellectual world of the samurai
Finish reading Cleary, Samurai Wisdom.

Week 6
Feb. 20: When the Last Sword Is Drawn
Feb. 22: When the Last Sword Is Drawn
Feb. 24: When the Last Sword Is Drawn

Week 7
Feb. 27: Bakumatsu Japan
Mar. 1: Meiji Restoration
Mar. 3: Meiji military

Week 8
Mar. 6: Origins of imperialism
Mar. 8: Review session
Mar. 10: MIDTERM
Week 9
Mar. 13: Russo-Japanese War
Mar. 15: Imperialism, 1905-1919
Mar. 17: Imperialism, 1919-1932

Week 10
Mar. 20: Japanese “fascism”
Mar. 22: War crimes
Mar. 24: NO CLASS

Week 11
Spring Break—NO CLASS
Henson, *Comfort Woman*.

Week 12
Apr. 3: *Comfort Woman*
Apr. 5: The Kwantung Army in Manchukuo
Apr. 7: Total war in Asia
Begin reading Nakazawa, *Barefoot Gen*.

Week 13
Apr. 10: World War II in the Pacific
Apr. 12: Total defeat
Apr. 14: *Barefoot Gen*
Finish reading Nakazawa, *Barefoot Gen*.

Week 14
Apr. 17: Despair and exhaustion
Apr. 19: Demilitarization under the Occupation
Apr. 21: Repatriation
Begin reading Sano, *1000 Days in Siberia*.

Week 15
Apr. 24: *1000 Days in Siberia*
Apr. 26: Despair and exhaustion
Apr. 28: Japan’s postwar military
Finish reading Sano, *1000 Days in Siberia*. 
Week 16

May 1: Mishima Yukio and the resurgence of militarism
May 3: The lessons of history
May 5: Review session
