SHOGUN'S JAPAN

Reading: Conrad Totman, Early Modern Japan
Constantine Nomikos Vaporis, Voices of Early Modern Japan: Contemporary Accounts of Daily Life During the Age of the Shoguns
*Vaporis reading to be completed before class time to facilitate discussion.

Requirements: Attendance and Participation (10%), Midterm Examination (20%), Two Film Reaction Papers Due by June 3 (15% each), Research Paper (20%), and End-of-Term Exam (20%).

Office Hours: 13:00-15:00 Tuesdays in 327 McKenzie Hall. Email: hanes@uoregon. Phone: 6-4837.

Learning Objectives:
- To explore the rich world of Tokugawa Japan
- To learn to utilize primary source materials
- To approach history as interpretation
- To balance ideas and evidence in the discussion of historical issues
- To write clearly, coherently, and critically

Week One. Warring As Way of Life.

March 28. Introduction.
Reading: Totman, xii-10.
March 30. Sengoku: What Does It Mean to be Center-less?
Reading: Totman, 11-28.

Film: “Ten to Chi to” (Heaven and Earth)

Week Two. Reunification.

April 4. Oda Nobunaga: Was He Really a Cruel and Callous Brute?
Reading: Totman, 29-44.
April 6. Toyotomi Hideyoshi: Was This a Great Man, or a Megalomaniac?
Reading: Totman, 44-49; Vaporis, Chapter 14.
Week Three. The Tokugawa Peace.

April 11. Tokugawa Ieyasu: How Did He Wield Power and Authority?
Reading: Totman, 50-58; Vaporis, Chapters 11, 12, and 13.
April 13. Pacification: What Were the Fundamental Conditions of Peace?
Reading: Totman, 59-99; Vaporis, Chapters 6, 17, and 19.

Film Clip: “Hara Kiri”

Week Four. Cementing the New Order.

April 18. Securing Stability: How Did the Tokugawa Create Political Order?
Reading: Totman, 101-139; Vaporis, Chapters 5, 15, 16, 39, and 40.
April 20. Production & Trade: How Did the Regime Achieve Economic Order?
Reading: Totman, 140-159; Vaporis, Chapters 8, 18, 20, 26, 31, and 32.

Week Five. From Power to Authority.

April 25. MIDTERM EXAMINATION.
April 27. Public Ideology: How did the Shoguns Establish Legitimacy?
Reading: Totman, 160-183; Vaporis, Chapters 22 and 24.

Week Six. Popular Cultures.

May 2. Castle Town Color: How Should We Describe Urban Culture?
Reading: Totman, 184-222; Vaporis, Chapters 33, 34, 36 and 37.
May 4. Peasant Rebellion: Why did Peasants Rebel?
Reading: Totman, 223-279; Vaporis, Chapters 28, 29, and 30.

Film Clip: “The Life of Oharu”

Week Seven. Reform.

May 9. Maintaining the Peace: How did the Shoguns Deal With Change?
Reading: Totman, 280-395; Vaporis, Chapters 35, 38, and 42.
Assignment: Submit Short Prospectus on Research Project


Film Clip: “Chushingura”
Week Eight. Internal Troubles.

May 16. Living Life: What was Daily Life Like in Early Modern Japan?
Reading: Vapori, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, and 30.

May 18. Plight of the Samurai: Were the warriors truly impoverished?
Reading: Totman, 397-464; Vapori, Chapters 23, 25, and 27

Film Clip: “Ballad of Narayama”

Week Nine. External Threat.

May 23. Barbarians at the Gate: What Threat Did the Outside World Pose?
Reading: Totman, 465-503; Vapori, Chapter 21.

May 25. Restorationism: How was the Authority of Shoguns Challenged?
Reading: Totman, 504-539.

Film Clip: “Assassinaton”

Week Ten. Bakumatsu.

May 30. MEMORIAL DAY (NO CLASS)
June 1. The Beginning of the End. Research Essays Due.
Reading: Totman, 541-551; Vapori, Chapter 41.

Film Clip: “The Hidden Blade”

End-of-Term Exam 14:45-16:45 on Thursday, June 9 in 185 Lillis