HIST 498/598 MEDIEVAL JAPAN

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General

Japan's early medieval period (roughly 1150s-1460s) is fun to study. It is distinguished by social and political fluidity, and the rise of the warrior class. The era witnessed such significant developments as the emergence of Zen culture, new religious understandings for the commoner population, enhanced knowledge of healing and medicine, marginalization of some social groups, warfare as a new phenomenon, extensive overseas contacts, and increasing commercialization.

HIST 498 melds a chronological and topical approach, and utilizes lectures, films, and visual sources (scroll paintings of hells, illnesses, Mongol invasions; portraits of lay and religious figures, and Zen gardens), in conjunction with readings.

Evaluation **A. Attendance: 10%.**

B. Quiz One (02/02), worth 10% of course grade; Mid-term (02/21), worth 30% of course grade; Quiz Two (03/16), worth 20% of course grade. Study guides on Blackboard.

C. One 3500 word essay (**30%**). The essay is due **no later than March 12**. **Late submission without good reason** may be **penalized**. Please discuss the topic of the paper with the instructor **no later than February 23**.

Graduate Students: In addition to the above, graduate students are to submit a 1300-word book review worth 10% of course grade (this will be incorporated into the grading).

Required Texts: Pierre Souyri. *The World Turned Upside Down*.
Berger, Goble, Harrington, Hurst: *Currents in Medieval Japanese History*.

Further Readings: Additional readings, which provide further depth and which can serve as resources when considering your term paper, are available on Canvas. They are potentially examinable (the study guides will indicate which ones these are). A number of other items which may prove useful may also be placed on course reserve in Knight Library.

The bibliographies in our texts are good guides to articles and monographs on medieval Japan, but can appear overwhelming. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about sources when planning their term paper.

Another comprehensive bibliography is online at: www.ames.cam.ac.uk/bib

Course Achievements:

By the end of the course, you will have had the opportunity to:

Appreciate the broader social and historical evolution of early medieval Japan.

Gain an in-depth familiarity with the workings of society and social groups in a culture distant in time and place.

Become familiar with how historians seek to explain the unfolding of events, development of institutions, and aspects of social change.

Reflect upon the utility of explanatory models, such as inevitability ("something was bound to happen"), serendipity ("couldn't have been predicted"), conjunction of factors ("perfect storm"), or even on occasion the inability to provide a satisfactory explanation ("while it is difficult to identify one particular cause"), and suchlike.

Develop your skills in analyzing and interpreting primary sources material.

Develop your skills in writing and presenting your own conclusions.

ANTICIPATED LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE.

01/08 Class 1: Course Introduction.

Souyri, chapter 1.

Currents: Conlan, "Traces of the Past."

01/10 Class 2: The Rise of the Warriors: The 1150s.

Souyri, chapters 2, 3.

Currents: Friday, "What A Difference a Bow Makes."

01/12 Class 3: Mr. Kevin McDowell, Knight Library Japanese Bibliographer.

01/15 MLK Holiday, no class.

01/17 Class 4: Minamoto Yoritomo's War: the 1180s.

Souyri, chapters 2, 3.

Currents: Friday, "What A Difference a Bow Makes."

Currents: Adolphson, "Benkei's Ancestors."

01/19 Class 5: Kamakura, the First Warrior Government.

Souyri, chapter 4.

Currents: Nelson, "Creating Constabular Authority."

Mass, "The Kamakura Bakufu."

01/22 Class 6: The Hōjō, the First Warrior Dynasty.

Souyri, chapter 4.

Varley, "The Hōjō Rise to Power," in Mass ed. *Court and Bakufu in Japan*.

01/24 Class 7: Warrior Thought and Leadership: Hōjō Shigetoki.

Steenstrup, "The Gokurakuji Letter."

Steenstrup, *Hōjō Shigetoki (1198–1261) and his Role in the History of Political and Ethical Ideas in Japan*.

01/26 Class 8: Judging Warriors: Hōjō Yasutoki and the 1232 Law Code.

Souyri, chapter 4.

Hall, "The Hōjō Code of Judicature."

Mass, *The Development of Kamakura Rule*.

01/29 Class 9 Litigation and Arbitration: the Kamakura Legal System.

Steenstrup, "The Legal System of Japan at the End of the Kamakura period."

Steenstrup, "*Sata Mirensho*: A Fourteenth Century Law Primer."

01/31 Class 10 Women's Property Rights.

Souyri, chapters 4.

Tonomura, "Women and Inheritance."

Currents: Tonomura, "Court and Bakufu in Her Flesh."

02/02 Class 11: **Quiz One**.

02/05 Class 12: Medicine and Illness.

Currents: Goble, "Images of Illness."

Currents: Keirstead, "Outcasts Before the Law."

02/07 Class 13 Guest lecture: Ms. Bree Goosmann.

"Addressing Poverty: Responses of Bakufu and of Individuals."

02/09 Class 14: Karma, Rebirth, Hell.

Souyri, chapter 5.

Hirasawa, "The Inflatible Collapsible Kingdom of Retribution."

02/12 Class 15: New Salvation Religions: Amidism, Nichiren's Lotus Sect.

Miyazaki, "The Religious Life of Kamakura bushi."

Ōsumi, "Buddhism in the Kamakura Period."

Bloom, "Shinran's Gospel of Pure Grace."

02/14 Class 16: The China Connection: Trade, Exchange, and Diplomacy.

Souyri, chapters 8, 9.

Introduction, in *Tools of Culture*.

Goble, *Confluences of Medicine in Medieval Japan*, chapter 1.

Kawazoe, "Japan and East Asia."

02/16 Class 17: The China Connection: Building Zen Culture (1) Institutions.

Souyri, chapters 5, 10.

Collcutt, "Lanxi Daolong at Kenchōji."

02/19 Class 18: The China Connection: Mongol Invasions of 1274 and 1281.

Souyri, chapter 4.

Sasaki, "The Lost Mongol Fleet."

Delgado, *Khubilai Khan's Lost Fleet*.

Conlan, *In Little Need of Divine Intervention*.

02/21 Class 19: **Mid-term exam**.

02/23 Class 20: Emperor Go-Daigo's Revolt: The 14th Century Breakpoint.

Souyri, chapters 5, 7.

Goble, "Visions of an Emperor."

Goble, *Kenmu: Go-Daigo's Revolution*.

02/26 Class 21: Film *Warrior Graveyard: Samurai Back From the Dead*.

02/28 Class 22: Fourteenth Century Warfare.

Souyri, chapter 7.

Goble, "War and Injury: The Emergence of Wound Medicine in Medieval Japan."

Conlan, "The Record of Nomoto Tomoyuki."

McCullough trans. *The Taiheiki*.

03/02 Class 23: Governing and Civil War

Souyri, chapter 8.

Hall, "The Muromachi Bakufu."

03/05 Class 24: Yoshimitsu's Golden Pavilion

Souyri, chapter 9.

Imatani, "Not For Lack of Will or While."

Varley, "Cultural Life in Medieval Japan."

03/07 Class 25: Building Zen Culture (2) Intellectual Life and Arts.

Souyri, chapters 5, 10.

Collcutt, "Zen and the Gozan."

Parker, "Attaining Landscapes in the Mind."

03/09 Class 26. Warrior Pirates.

Souyri, chapters 8, 9.

Currents: Hyungsub Moon, "The Matsura Pirate-Warriors of Northwestern Kyushu in the Kamakura Age."

Shapinsky, "Predators, Protectors, and Purveyors.

03/12 **TERM PAPER DUE**

Class 27: Commerce and Money.

Souyri, chapter 9.

Gay, "The Lamp Oil Merchants of Iwashimizu Shrine."

Currents: Ethan Segal, "Awash With Coins.

Yamamura, "The Growth of Commerce in Medieval Japan."

03/14 Class 28: Medieval End: The Ōnin War, 1467-1477.

Souyri, chapter 10.

Varley, *The Ōnin War*.

03/16 Class 29 **Quiz Two**.

TERM PAPER GUIDELINES.

1. The term paper is an opportunity for you to organize your thoughts in your own words on a topic that interests you.

2. You need to be attentive to such things as:

a/ overall structure - a good introduction stating the goal, problem or question; a middle portion (which can be broken down into sub-sections); and a conclusion.

b/ realize that the reader is most interested in seeing you develop your thoughts and arguments, rather than being apprised too directly of others' thoughts, i.e. use direct quotation sparingly; and under all circumstances avoid the dreaded "P" (plagiarism) problem (double check that you have a fire-wall between your notes and summaries from sources and your final product.

3. Selecting topics can be challenging and at times frustrating. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to discuss a possible topic with the instructor. When thinking of a topic, it might be useful to consider whether you have a general interest in a wider topic (e.g. material culture), and then see whether you might explore that in the context of Japanese history. Or, you might consider issues that have come up in lectures or in your reading and which have seemed intriguing. In general, any historical topic dealing with Japan between 1150 and 1480 is acceptable, irrespective of whether it has been covered in class.

4. The reader is interested in coming to the conclusion that the piece is thoughtful, based on careful consideration of the material that forms the basis for the paper, and represents your thoughts in your words. The instructor is not “looking for” a set interpretation, and your conclusions are your own based on the material you have engaged (however, an argument that is the equivalent of something like the earth is flat will not be evaluated highly).

5. Bibliography: at least three sources that are not a textbook is a useful guide. Avail yourselves of the readings noted and bibliography in the assigned texts. Please feel free to consult with the instructor.

6. Use of internet sources (except for such things as online journals), unless specifically permitted by the instructor, is not acceptable, and will be penalized. In principle, use of internet sources not approved for the paper by the instructor is grounds for an automatic fail for the paper.