Description:
This course offers an introduction to the culture, history, and society of Japan. The primary goal is to develop a broad understanding of Japanese cultural, political, and social identities. In addition to a variety of secondary sources that describe the historical period or topic we are discussing, we will focus on analyzing primary source materials (both non-fictional and fictional works, i.e. laws, memoirs, essays, fictional stories, films, art, theater, etc.) produced in the period to discover how intellectuals, citizens, lawmakers, and artists were negotiating the particular contexts in which they lived. The secondary goal of this course is to learn how to read these sources critically and analytically. The format of the course will include both lecture as well as small group and class discussions. This course provides an introductory foundation for students to go onto more specialized, upper-division courses in fields such as Japanese anthropology, art history, economics, film, history, international business, literature, political science, religion, and sociology.

Required Texts/Readings:
2) All other readings will be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents. You should print these out so that you can read carefully, take thorough notes, and bring with you to class.
3) A pack of 3”X5” index cards to be used for in-class pop quizzes. You must use a 3”x5” index card for these quizzes or they will not be graded.

Optional Text (available at Co-Op):

Grading:
In-class quizzes and group work = 25%
--Pop quizzes will be given fairly often at unannounced times usually at the start of the class during the first couple of minutes, but occasionally, they will be given in the middle or at the end of lecture. You will need to use your 3”X5” index cards or the quiz will not be graded. Their purpose is threefold: to track attendance, to check if you have done the reading assignments, and to see if you have been paying attention to the lecture. If you get the answer right, you get 5 out of 5 points. If wrong, 2.5 out of 5 points as credit for attending class. If you fail to turn it in, you get 0 out of 5 points. Your lowest two quiz scores will be automatically dropped, but absolutely no make-ups allowed. Answers will be given orally immediately following the quiz so that you’ll be able to calculate your score. Quizzes will not be returned. (25% of your total grade)
Midterm Tests (two total; 20% each) = 40%
There will be two mid-term tests on Week 5 and Week 10. Each of these will cover only the material covered (in readings, lecture, and discussion) during the previous five weeks alone. No make-ups allowed. If you do not show, you will receive a “0” for the test.

Final exam = 35%
The final exam will be cumulative covering material from the entire semester on Dec. 15th, 9 a.m. – noon. No make-ups allowed. If you do not show, you will receive a “0” for the test.

Standards and Expectations:
Careful and thorough reading of the assigned texts by the date indicated on the schedule. Reading requires your active engagement with the text. Merely highlighting or skimming these will not be sufficient for close analysis. Detailed note-taking is essential and you must bring your copy of the reading to class.
Attendance at all classes and considerate and attentive listening to the lecture. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave.
Active and considerate participation in class and group discussions. Common courtesy is expected.
Timely completion of assignments and examinations. No make-up tests will be given. Extensions will be granted in only very rare cases for legitimate reasons (i.e. religious holidays), but even in these cases, arrangements must be made with the instructor one week prior to the examination date. Last-minute family or medical emergencies will be considered, but no guarantees and will require proof of emergency. No exceptions.
Announcements of schedule changes and/or homework assignments may be made in the previous class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what has been assigned. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at kcather@mail.utexas.edu or the Teaching Assistant, Duc Huynh, at dhuynh1@mail.utexas.edu.

Grading Policy
Grades are assigned as follows: 97-100 = A+; 93-96 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; below 60 = F. As a rule, I do not grade on a curve or round up grades. If you receive an 89, you will receive a B+. One exception to this rule is that a grade that is very close to the next grade level, such as an 89.8 or 79.9, may be rounded up to the higher grade if the student has consistently attended class and participated fully in class discussions. There are no extra credit assignments for this class.
Schedule (subject to change; updated version posted on blackboard):
Readings are marked with a – and should be completed by the day listed on the schedule.
Note: All authors are listed with last name first following the Japanese practice.

First Meetings (Aug. 26 & 28)
Wed: Introduction
Fri: Lecture on Place and People
--Map of Japan at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/japan.jpg
--A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 1-6

Week One (Aug. 31, Sept. 2, Sept. 4) – Origins & Early State Building in Nara Period (712-793)
Mon: --Kojiki (712) excerpts pp. 37-86
Wed: --Shōtoku Taishi 17 article “constitution” (604)
   http://mll.kenyon.edu/~japanese02/J28sp99/projects/hinckley/1/prince_shotoku2.html
   --Shōtoku Taishi “Introduction,” 1
Fri: --Man'yōshū (ca. 759), excerpts

Week Two (Sept 7 (off), 9 & 11) – Heian Period (794-1185) – Court Culture and Women’s Writing
Mon: OFF (Labor Day holiday)
Wed: --Michitsuna no Haha, The Gossamer Years: The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan (ca. 974), pp. 33-69

Week Three (Sept. 14, 16, 18): Kamakura Period (1185-1333): Samurai and Suicide
Mon: --The Tale of the Heike (ca. 1185) excerpts Ch. 4, #11. 15, 16, 19; addt’l handouts
Wed: continue discussion of Heike
   [In-class show clips of Sukiyaki Western Django (dir. Miike Takashi, 2007)]
Fri: Lecture on Edo-period ukiyoe, pleasure quarters, and haikai

Week Four (Sept. 21, 23, 25): Edo period: Consolidation and Isolation
Mon: --Takeda Izumo et al., Chūshingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers, (1748), pp. 29-180
Wed: Continue Chūshingura discussion
Fri: --Musui’s Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai (Katsu Kokichi, 1843) excerpts
   Wrap-up discussion of samurai

Week Five (Sept. 28, 30, Oct. 2)
Mon: Review session for Test #1
Wed: Test #1
Fri: In-class film screening (TBA)

Week Six (Oct. 5, 7, 9) – Encounters with the West and the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)
Mon: --Kanagaki Robun, Beefeater excerpt p. 31-33
   --The Japanese Discovery of America (1853) excerpts
Wed: --Fukuzawa Yukichi, An Encouragement of Learning excerpts (1872)
   --Intellectuals on women’s rights (TBA)
Fri: In-class watch documentary *The Meiji Revolution: Asia's Response to the West* (Pacific Basin Institute, 1992, 60 min.)

**Week Seven (Oct. 12, 14, 16): Taishō Period (1912-26) Cosmopolitanism to Prewar Repression, Militarism, and Nationalism**

Mon: discuss Meiji Revolution video  

Wed: --“Momotarō” legend & propaganda

Fri: --Tanizaki, *In Praise of Shadows* (1933), pp. 1-42  
[In-class clips of *The Neighbor's Wife and Mine* (Gosho Heinosuke, 1931)]

**Week Eight (Oct. 19, 21, 23) – Encountering the West, again: WWII, the A-bomb, the Emperor, and the Occupation**

Mon: In-class watch A-bomb video

--*Barefoot Gen* (manga 1973-85)

Fri: --“Text of Japan’s Two Constitutions (The 1889 Meiji Constitution and The 1946 Postwar Constitution)” (158-71)

**Week Nine (Oct. 26, 28, 30)**

Mon: --Ōe, “Human Sheep” (1958), pp. 167-77

Wed: In-class screening of *Japan, Inc.*  
--Kojima Nobuo, “American School” (1954), pp. 120-44

Fri: Mishima Yukio readings TBA

**Week Ten (Nov. 2, 4, 6)**

Mon: Review session for test #2

Wed: **Test #2**

Fri: In-class screen *Family Game* (dir. Morita Yoshimitsu, 1983)

**Week Eleven (Nov. 9, 11, 13): Contemporary Issues: Education, Corporations, Gender, Int’l Relations**

Mon: Finish screening *Family Game*

Wed: discuss *Family Game*  
--*Learning to go to school in Japan* (Lois Peak, 1991), excerpts

Fri: --“Changing Japanese Families” (Akiko Hashimoto & John W. Traphagan, 2008), pp. 1-12  
--“You are doing burikko!: Censoring Scrutinizing Artificers of Cute Femininity in Japanese” (Laura Miller, 2004, pp. 148-62)

**Week Twelve (Nov. 16, 18, 20)**

Mon: --*Office Ladies and Salaried Men* excerpts (Yuko Ogasawara, 1998)

Wed: Yasukuni & comfort women readings (TBA)

Fri: --“Is ‘Japan’ Still a Big Family? Nationality and Citizenship at the Edge of the Japanese Archipelago” (Mariko Asano Tamanoi, 2008, pp. 111-35)
Week Thirteen (Nov. 23 & 25; Fri. OFF):
Mon:  Guest lecturer: Maeri Megumi on Japanese Religions
Wed:  In-class screening of The Great Happiness Space: Tale of an Osaka Love Thief (dir. Jake
  Clennell, 2006, 75 min.)
  --Enjō kōsai readings (TBA)
Fri:   OFF Thanksgiving

Week Fourteen (Nov. 30, Dec. 2 & 4)
Mon:   --“Ethnography of a Hostess Club,” in Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate
  Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club excerpts (Anne Allison, 1994), pp. 32-76
Wed:   Topic TBD
Fri:   Final Wrap-up

FINAL EXAM – Dec. 15th, 9 a.m. – noon

Official Policies
Academic integrity: You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and
  integrity. Behaviors, such as plagiarism, copying of another student’s work, or cheating on
  an exam, are serious offenses that will result in the grade of an “F” for the course and will be
  reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be
  taken. Please refer to the following website for information on how to avoid plagiarism in your
  work and/or discuss this with the instructor:
  http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php
University Electronic Notification Mail Policy: In this course, e-mail will be used as a means of
  communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for
  class announcements and assignments. As per the University Electronic Notification Policy
  (please see http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html), it is your responsibility to
  update your email address and to check your e-mail regularly.
Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who require special
  accommodations may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of
  Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6529 voice
  or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the
  semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information,
  please see: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.
Use of Blackboard in Class: Some of our readings are available on blackboard. You should print
  these out and bring with you to class. Please allow yourself enough time before an assignment
  is due. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as
  unanticipated disruptions. Blackboard is available at http://courses.utexas.edu. Support is
  provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 during business hours on weekdays.
Religious Holidays: If you will need to miss class, tests, or other assignments due to the
  observance of a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the work you
  have missed provided you notify me at least one week prior to the absence.