**Introduction to Japan (ANS 302J; #30645)**

Fall 2010, MWF 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in MEZ B0.306  
Instructor: Kirsten Cather (Fischer), kcather@mail.utexas.edu  
Cather Office Hours: Wed./Fri. 2-3:30 p.m. at WCH 5.104B  
Teaching Assistant: Chris Feldman, feldman_chris@mail.utexas.edu  
TA Office Hours: Tue. 1-3 p.m. at BUR 436

**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. Your active participation is essential. 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 Materials:**
1) The following two books are required and available for purchase at the Co-Op. You are welcome to find cheaper used copies from local or online bookstores.


2) All other readings are posted on Blackboard either as a hard copy or as a URL link to the web (as indicated on the below schedule). You should print these out so that you can read carefully, take thorough notes, and **bring with you** to class.

3) You will need 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.

**Grading Policy**
Grades are assigned as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; 80-82.9 = B-; 77-79.9 = C+; 73-76.9 = C; 70-72.9 = C-; 67-69.9 = D+; 63-66.9 = D; 60-62.9 = 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 89.9 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.

**Grading:**
1. **In-class quizzes and group work = 15% (lowest 2 automatically dropped)**  
   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 during lecture or at the end of class. 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 and grades will be posted on blackboard. Quizzes will not be returned, but the TA will keep copies if you would like to see yours.

**Group work** will be done frequently in-class in small groups of 3-4 people. Each will be worth either 2.5 or 5 points total and your group will receive one grade as a whole that reflects your group’s effort and engagement with the assignment and your participation in the class discussion that follows.

**II. Media Watch Assignment = 5%**
This is an opportunity for you to pursue a specific area of interest to you related to Japan. A worksheet with detailed instructions for the assignment is up on Blackboard under Assignments. Between Weeks 3-13 (Sept. 13th - November 24th) of the semester, you will submit a hard copy of a news article related to Japan along with a short 1 - 2 page typed essay on the article and its relevance to our study of Japan. On-line or print sources are fine, but they should be reliable original news sources, so no Wikipedia or random blogs. Over the course of the semester as time allows, a number of papers will be selected for sharing with the class, so you should be prepared to orally present and to discuss the article and your reactions to it in class if yours is chosen. I strongly suggest that you do NOT wait until week 13 to do these, since your grade will depend on three things: 1) the quality of your written and/or oral presentation, 2) originality, and 3) whether your article gets chosen to be discussed.

**III. Midterm Tests (two total; 20% each) = 40%**
There will be two mid-term tests in Weeks 6 and Week 11. Each of these will cover 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.

**IV. Final exam = 40%**
The final exam will be cumulative, covering all material from the entire semester. Scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 14, 9:00-12:00 noon (subject to registrar’s confirmation). 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 since you will need to refer to them frequently for group and class discussion/activities.

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 are not guaranteed and documented proof of emergency is required. No exceptions.

Announcements of schedule changes and/or homework assignments may be made in the previous class or by email and/or Blackboard announcements.
Powerpoints and other lecture notes will **not** be posted on blackboard. If you miss class, you should arrange to get notes from a classmate. If you have questions, you should attend TA or instructor office hours.

**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/ssa/

Use of Blackboard in Class: Many 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.
Schedule (subject to change; updated version posted on blackboard):
All readings should be completed by class time on the day indicated on the schedule. Readings marked with:
* indicates a book available for purchase at the Coop,
✓ indicates readings available on Blackboard under Course Readings (either hard copy or URL link), and
◼ indicates videos that we will watch in-class. When the video is available from the Fine Arts Library for you to watch on your own again for review purposes, I have included the call number on the schedule below.

Note: All Japanese authors are listed with last name first following the Japanese practice.

First Meetings (Aug. 25 & 27)
Wed: Introduction
Fri: Lecture on Place and People
  *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 1-17

Mon:  ✓ Kojiki (712) excerpts, pp. 37-86
Wed:  Continue discussion of Kojiki
      ✓ Shōtoku Taishi 17 article “constitution” (604) and supplementary “Introduction”
Fri:  ✓ Man’yōshū (ca. 759), excerpts
      *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 18-46

Week Two (Sept 8 & 10): Heian Period (794-1185) – Court Culture and Women’s Writing
Mon: OFF (Labor Day)
Wed:  ✓ Michitsuna no haha, The Gossamer Years: The Diary of a Noblewoman of Heian Japan (ca. 974), pp. 33-69
Fri:  ✓ Sei Shōnagon, The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon (ca. 996), excerpts
       ✓ “The Female Hand in Heian Japan: A First Reading,” (Richard Bowring), pp. 49-56
       *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 47-77

Week Three (Sept. 13, 15, 17): “Warrior” Culture – From Kamakura Period (1185-1333) to Edo Period (1600-1868)
Mon:  ✓ The Tale of the Heike (ca. 1185) excerpts and additional handouts
       *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 78-99
      ◼ In-class view clips of Sukiyaki Western Django (Miike Takashi, 2007)
      ✓ “Yamamoto Tsunetomo: Hagakure (Hidden in Leaves)” (ca. 1710) excerpts, pp. 287-91, 297-303
Fri:  ◼ In-class view Hara-kiri (Kobayashi Masaki, 1962) DVD 4723 at Fine Arts Library
      Reminder: You must turn in your Media Watch Assignment between Mon 9/13 – Wed 11/24

Week Four (Sept. 20, 22, 24): Edo period (1600-1868): Consolidation and Isolation
Mon:  ◼ In-class finish viewing Hara-kiri (Kobayashi Masaki, 1962)
Wed:  Discuss Hara-kiri
      *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 142-175
Fri:   * Katsu Kokichi, Musui’s Story: The Autobiography of a Tokugawa Samurai (1843)

Week Five (Sept. 27, 29, Oct. 1): Edo Period ct’d
Mon:  Discuss Musui’s Story
Wed:  Wrap-up discussion on samurai from Kamakura to Edo
Fri:  Review Session for Midterm #1
Week Six (Oct. 4, 6, 8): Encounters with the West in late Edo

Mon: MIDTERM TEST #1

Wed: In-class clips from The Japanese Version (Kolker & Alvarez, 1991; VC 3905 at Fine Arts)

   Ii Naosuke and Tokugawa Nariaki, “Memorial on the American Demand for a Treaty” (1853), pp. 99-106
   Aizawa Seishisai, “New Theses” excerpts (1825), pp. 149-51; 52-56
   *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 133-141, (review 161-62), 175-191

Week Seven (Oct. 11, 13, 15): Establishing a Modern Nation State & Empire – From Meiji (1868-1912) to Taishō (1912-26)

Mon.: Fukuzawa Yukichi, An Encouragement of Learning (1872-76) excerpts
   Kanagaki Robun, “The Beefeater” (1871) excerpts, pp. 31-33
   *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 192-210
   The 1889 Meiji Constitution

Wed: The Imperial Rescript on Education (1890)
   Additional Reading TBA
   *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 210-223

Fri: In-class watch documentary The Meiji Revolution: Asia’s Response to the West (Pacific Basin Institute, 1992; VC 3872 at Fine Arts)

Week Eight (Oct. 18, 20, 22): Encountering the West, again: 1920/30s Cosmopolitanism to Militarism and War (Shōwa Period, 1926-1989)

Mon: In-class finish watching documentary The Meiji Revolution and discuss

Wed: Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, In Praise of Shadows (1933), pp. 1-42
   In-class clips of The Neighbor’s Wife and Mine (Gosho Heinosuke, 1931)
   *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 233-35

Fri: “Momotarō” legend
   “Draft of Basic Plan for Establishment of Greater E. Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere” (January 1942), pp. 312-15
   In-class clips of China Nights (Fushimizu Osamu 1941)
   *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 240-57


   In-class clips of Barefoot Gen (Masaki Mori, 1983; VC 11137 at Fine Arts)]

Wed: “Imperial Rescript on Surrender” (August 14, 1945), pp. 317-19
   “The Emperor’s Renunciation of his Divinity” (January 1, 1946)
   “Text of Japan’s Two Constitutions (The 1889 Meiji Constitution and The 1946 Postwar Constitution)” pp. 158-71

Fri: Ōe Kenzaburō, “Growing up during the Occupation” and “Hallo-Hallo!” (1965), pp. 374-77
   *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization, pp. 258-267
Week Ten (Nov. 1, 3, 5): Postwar Memories
Mon:  In-class screening of *MacArthur's Children* (Shinoda Masahiro, 1985, 125 min.)
Wed:  Continue screening of *MacArthur’s Children*
Fri:  Finish screening of *MacArthur's Children*
      Discuss *MacArthur’s Children*

Week Eleven (Nov. 8, 10, 12):

**Mon:** Review Session for Midterm #2

**Wed:** Midterm #2

**Fri:** Lecture on Postwar Economic Boom & Bust

- In-class clips of *Inside Japan, Inc.* (Pacific Basin Institute, 1992) (VC3872, v. 6 at Fine Arts) and *Gung Ho* (Ron Howard, 1986)

Week Twelve (Nov. 15, 17, 19): Contemporary Debates – Gender Roles / War Memories and Responsibility / Immigration (1945-present)

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

- *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*, pp. 267-71; 275-80

**Wed:** Nanking readings: "The Denial of Nanking" (Iris Chang, 1996) and “Rape of Nanking” (Jennifer Butt, 2000)

- Self-Defense Force (SDF) readings:
  - "Prince Pickles: the cuddly mascot of Japan’s Self-Defense Forces" (James, 2007)
  - "PRINCE PICKLES’ CHARM OFFENSIVE" (HIROKO TABUCHI, Feb. 21, 2007)
  - [http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20070221f3.html](http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20070221f3.html)
  - “Japanese PM in China: Aso uses manga diplomacy” (AFP, April 30, 2009)
  - [http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_370648.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Asia/Story/STIStory_370648.html)

- In-class clips of *Spirits of the State*: Japan’s Yasukuni Shrine (2005) DVD 6648 at Fine Arts Library

**Fri:** Akagi Tomohiro, "War is the Only Solution" (Jan. 2007) at [http://www.japanfocus.org/Akagi_Tomohiro_Fukushima_Mizuho_Mori_Tatsuya_Okuhara_Noriharu/2452](http://www.japanfocus.org/Akagi_Tomohiro_Fukushima_Mizuho_Mori_Tatsuya_Okuhara_Noriharu/2452)


- In-class clips of *Overstay* (dir. Ann Kaneko, 1998)

Week Thirteen (Nov. 22 & 24): Religion and Funerals

**Mon:** Guest Lecture by Maeri Megumi on Japanese Religions


**Wed:** In-class screening of clips from *The Funeral* (Itami Juzō, 1986; DVD 308 at Fine Arts)

**Fri:** OFF (Thanksgiving)

Week Fourteen (Nov. 29, Dec. 1 & 3)

**Mon:** Readings and Topic TBD

**Wed:** Media Watch Assignment Presentations

**Fri:** Media Watch Assignment Presentations Continued

Final Wrap-up

Date TBD: Final Exam Review Session

Final Exam on Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. in MEZ B0.306 (subject to registrar's confirmation) - NO MAKE-UPS