

**East Asian Civilizations and Humanities UN1361 (Spring 2021)**  
**INTRODUCTION TO EAST ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS: JAPAN**



<b>Instructor:</b>	Paul Kreitman	<a href="mailto:pk2528@columbia.edu">pk2528@columbia.edu</a> Office Hours: Thursdays 8am-10am Location: ONLINE via Zoom Book via <a href="https://calendly.com/pk2528">https://calendly.com/pk2528</a>
<b>Section instructors:</b>	Hana Lethen	<a href="mailto:hana.lethen@columbia.edu">hana.lethen@columbia.edu</a> Office Hours: By appointment only Location: ONLINE via Zoom
	Melissa Guoyi Li	<a href="mailto:gl2595@columbia.edu">gl2595@columbia.edu</a> Office Hours: By appointment only Location: ONLINE
	Mairead Hynes	<a href="mailto:m.hynes@columbia.edu">m.hynes@columbia.edu</a> Office Hours: By appointment only Location: ONLINE via Zoom
	Angelo Wong	<a href="mailto:angelo.wong@columbia.edu">angelo.wong@columbia.edu</a> Office Hours: Fridays 2pm-4pm Location: ONLINE by appointment

**Course Description:**

A survey ranging from prehistory to the beginning of the 21st century, this course introduces important events and individuals, prominent literary and artistic works, and recurring themes in the history of Japan. You will develop an understanding of the connections between economic, social, political and environmental factors, and the development of Japanese cultures within a regional and global context.

**Lectures:** Wednesdays 4.10-5.25pm ONLINE via courseworks zoom portal  
Pre-recorded mini-lectures will also be uploaded onto courseworks.

- Discussion Sections:**
- 1) Wed. 6:10-7:00pm (Hana Lethen) [starts 20th Jan.]
  - 2) Wed. 7:10-8:00pm (Hana Lethen) [starts 20th Jan.]
  - 3) Thurs. 9:10-10:00am (Melissa Li) [starts 21st Jan.]
  - 4) Thurs. 10:10-11:00am (Melissa Li) [starts 21st Jan.]
  - 5) Thurs. 5:10-6:00pm (Angelo Wong) [starts 21st Jan.]
  - 6) Thurs. 6:10-7:00pm (Angelo Wong) [starts 21st Jan.]
  - 7) Fri. 9:10-10:00am, (Mairead Hynes) [starts 22nd Jan.]
  - 8) Fri. 10:10-11:00am, (Mairead Hynes) [starts 22nd Jan.]

These sections (course number: UN1371) are **mandatory**. Attendance will be taken, and if you cannot accommodate any of these times you will not be able to take the course for credit.

**Requirements & Evaluation:**

- Regular lecture attendance (both live and pre-recorded)
- Regular section attendance and participation, including Courseworks postings (35%)
- 2 x creative assignments due **Fri. 12 Feb.** and **Fri. 2 Apr.** (2.5% + 2.5%)
- Essay or audio/video essay due **Fri 5. Mar.:** (30%)
- Final essays due 11.59pm Wed. 21st Apr. (30%)

Please email all assignments and exam answers to your section instructor.

**Required Textbooks:**

- Brett L. Walker, *A Concise History of Japan* (Cambridge, 2015) accessible online via CLIO. Also available in paperback from Book Culture (\$24) and as Amazon Kindle (\$14.04)
- Andrew Gordon, *A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present 3rd Edition* (Oxford Press, 2016) Available as paperback (\$52.59) and as e-book rental from [redshelf.com](http://redshelf.com) (\$24.98).
- Akemi Johnson, *Night in the American Village: Women in the Shadow of the U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa* (New York: New Press, 2019) accessible online via CLIO and as audiobook via Audible.
- You may also be required to rent or purchase a number of films via a VOD or streaming platform. I am working to acquire the rights to these titles to livestream for you, but cannot guarantee that this is possible. At most the total cost to you should not amount to more than \$10-20 USD.

**Suggested Textbooks:**

- William Wayne Farris, *Japan to 1600* (U Hawai'i, 2016)
- Marius B. Jansen, *The Making of Modern Japan* (Harvard, 2002) - uploaded on Courseworks.

**Additional readings** (all other readings mentioned in the schedule) will be posted as PDFs on Courseworks; ~~it is your responsibility to print or download these and bring them to section with you.~~

**On Class Materials:**

There are four components to this class:

1. Textbook reading assignments (“Walker”; “Gordon”; “Johnson”)

2. Lectures (pre-recorded and live-streamed via Zoom)
3. Primary source reading assignments
4. Weekly discussion sections

The textbook readings give you an overview of the material we will cover in class each week. **Note that there will be material introduced in the lectures that is NOT in the textbook or the other readings.** The additional readings are mainly translations of primary sources from the period under discussion that week. Background information for those readings will be provided during the lectures, and sections are in large part devoted to discussing them. You are required to read them **beforehand** and download copies to access during section. **In the final essays you will be required to make specific reference to the additional readings.**

**On Contacting Your Instructors:**

Each section instructor will have their own policy on this, but for myself, I will try my utmost to respond to any requests by email within 24 hours - **except for on Fridays**, which is my research day and therefore a holy day.

These are unprecedented times, and this is my first time adapting Japan Civ to an online learning environment. Given this, any feedback about what is and is not working with the course will be unusually welcome. Please feel free to reach out to myself or to your section instructor if you have any comments or suggestions.

**Statement on Disability Accommodations:**

If you have been certified by Disability Services (DS) to receive accommodations, please either bring your accommodation letter from DS to your professor's office hours to confirm your accommodation needs, or ask your liaison in GSAS to consult with your professor. If you believe that you may have a disability that requires accommodation, please contact Disability Services at 212-854-2388 or [disability@columbia.edu](mailto:disability@columbia.edu).

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## SCHEDULE

### Week I Introduction

[Walker Intro]

1) Mon. 11 Jan. **Q&A (Goals & Structure of the Class)**

2) Wed. 13 Jan. History and Narrative

### Week II Premodern State-making

[Walker Ch.1-2]

- *Wei Zhi*. "Record of the 'Wo' (Wa) people" - extract
- Donald L. Philippi (trans.), *Kojiki* (1968) - extract
- Takeda Tsuneyasu (ed.), *Read the Kojiki Through Manga* (2013) - extract

3) Wed. 20 Jan. : The Wet Rice Revolution

### Week III Gods & Warriors

[Walker Ch.3-4]

- *Sei Shōnagon*, Ivan Morris (trans.) *The Pillow Book* (1002) extracts
- *The Tale of the Fuji Cave* (Keller Kimbrough trans.)

4) Wed. 27 Jan.: ~~The Mizuko Kuyō~~\* NO LECTURE

~~\*In this session we will discuss potentially distressing topics such as miscarriage, abortion and infanticide.~~

### Week IV War and Peace

[Walker Ch.5-6]

- Jesuit reports on Japan
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi. "Limitations on the Propagation of Christianity" & "Expulsion of Missionaries."
- *Trials of Christian Sorcerers* - extract

4) Wed. 3 Feb.: What is a Samurai?

### Week V The Container Society

[Walker Ch.7-8]

- "Lust, Commerce & Corruption: An Account of What I Have Seen and Heard, by an Edo Samurai" extract
- *Tales from Japan's Megacity*: "Thousand Arms of Goddess, Julienned"

5) Wed. 10 Feb. Tokugawa Intellectuals + Q&A Review

***Creative Assignment #1 due by 11.59pm Fri. 12 Feb.***

**Week VI “Opening” the Country**

[Gordon Ch. 4-5]

- Walthall & Steele, *The Coming of the West*:
  - Aizawa Seishisai, “New Theses” (1825)
  - Yoshida Shoin, “On the Role of Dedicated Lower-ranking People” (1859)
  - Fukuzawa Yukichi, “Memorial Proposing a Shogunal Monarchy” (1866)
  - Sakamoto Ryoma, “The Domain Question” (1867)
  - “Ee ja nai ka” (1867)

6) Wed. 17 Feb. Open or Close?

**Week VII Ainu Mosir**

[Gordon Ch. 6-7]

- Kunakida Doppo, Michelle M. Mason (trans.) “The Shores of the Sorachi River” (1902)
- Chiri Yukie (Kyoko Selden trans.) “The Song the Owl God Himself Sang” (1922)

7) Mon. 22 Feb. The Mizuko Kuyō\*

*\*In this session we will discuss potentially distressing topics such as miscarriage, abortion and infanticide.*

8) Wed. 24 Feb. Q&amp;A Review Session

**SPRING BREAK*****Midterm essay due by 11.59pm Fri. 5th Mar.*****Week VIII Empire & Ethnos**

[Gordon Ch. 8-9]

- Yamagusuku Seichū, “Kunenbo Orange Trees”
- Kim Sa-Ryang, “Into the Light”
- Optional film: *Ainu Mosir* (2020) - available in US via Netflix (\$8.99 per month)

9) Wed. 10 Mar. Discussion on *Ainu Mosir***Week IX - World War II**

[Gordon Ch. 10-12]

- Cook, Haruko and Theodore. *Japan at War: An Oral History* home front excerpts
- The Women’s Division of the Green Flag Association, “The Manual of Home Cuisine”

10) Wed. 17 Mar. Propaganda\*

*\*In this session we will discuss World War II. World War II is distressing.*

**Week X - The Occupation & Postwar**

[Gordon Ch. 13-14]

- *Sazae-san* - extracts
- FILM: Imamura Shohei, *Pigs & Battleships* (1961) View film via link below:  
<https://www1.columbia.edu/sec-cgi-bin/cul/respac/respac?CRSE=20211ASCE1361V001#>

11) Wed. 24 Mar. The Emperor

**Week XI - Memory Wars**

[Gordon Ch. 15-16]

- Office of Yasukuni Shrine, “A Child’s Guide to Yasukuni Shrine”
- Kobayashi Yoshinori, “Neo-Gomanism” - comfort women
- Ienaga Saburo, “The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere: Liberation or Exploitation?”

12) Wed. 31 Mar. *This Island is Ours* (2018) + discussion. View film via link below:<https://www1.columbia.edu/sec-cgi-bin/cul/respac/respac?CRSE=20211ASCE1361V001#>***Creative assignment #2 due by Fri. 2 April by 11.59*****Week XII - Okinawa**

- Medoruma Shun, “Hope” (1999)
- Akemi Johnson, *Night in the American Village* (2019)

Wed. 7 April. NO LECTURE

**Week XIII - Boom and Bust**

[Gordon Ch. 17-18]

- Kamo no Chōmei, “An Account of My Hut” [*Hōjōki*] (1212)
- *Ichi-F* (2016) - extract
- FILM: *Your Name* [*Kimi no na wa*] (2016)

13) Mon. 12 Apr. Author Q&amp;A with Akemi Johnson

14) Wed. 14 Apr. Review Session + Q&amp;A

**Final essays due by 11.59pm Wed. 21st Apr.**

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## WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

By 4pm on the due date, please email an electronic copy to your section instructor. Unless **prior arrangement** for an extension has been made, overdue assignments lose one-half letter grade for each day late.

1. Two creative assignments:
  - a. Creative Assignment #1 (due **Fri. 12 Feb**):
    - #1a Choose an extract from the *Kojiki* (not the extracts you have already read and discussed in class) and write your own version of it. Feel free to interpret, omit or embellish at will, and to experiment with style, form, setting or genre. In other words, have fun with it. (Max 500 words).
    - #1b: Compare extracts from two editions of the *Kojiki* (not the extracts you have already read and discussed in class). How are they different, and why? (Max 500 words).
    - Available English translations of the *Kojiki* include:
      - Basil Hall Chamberlain (accessible here: <https://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/kj/index.htm>)
      - Donald L. Philippi (accessible via CLIO)
      - Takeda Tsuneyasu, *Manga de yomu Kojiki* [Read the *Kojiki* in Manga] (accessible here: <https://mangadex.org/chapter/444779/1>)
      - You can consult versions in other languages too if you like.
  - b. Creative Assignment #2: Imagine you are performing a kami-shibai on a street corner in wartime Japan, and are reasonably confident that no police informants are listening. Write your own dialogue to accompany your officially authorised storyboards. (Max 500 words) Due **Fri. 2. Apr.**
2. A midterm essay (max 1,500 words) or audio/video essay (max ~~10~~ 7 minutes), due **Friday 5th March**. Choose a Japanese text, artwork or historical artefact produced before 1900 that relates, in some way, to the subject matter explored in the course so far. Introduce the object to a general audience, making sure to explain the historical context that informed its production, circulation and use. For inspiration you may consult the BBC's *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, especially [No. 10: "Jomon pot"](#) and [No. 79: "Kakiemon elephants"](#). Be sure to provide bibliographical references to support your claims. The following reference tools may aid you in your research:
  - a. [CLIO](#)
  - b. [JSTOR](#) (try other settings but start by selecting "Asian Studies")
  - c. The [online version](#) of *The Encyclopedia of Japan* (EOJ) that can be accessed through the Japan Knowledge database. **PLEASE BE SURE TO CLICK ON THE GRAY "LOGOUT" BUTTON ON THE TOP RIGHT WHEN DONE**, as there are limits on the number of Columbia users who can log in simultaneously.
  - d. Google Books (some texts available only in snippet view)
  - e. Wikipedia, Baike etc - but use with extreme caution! e.g. do not cite.
  - f. You can view artefacts in person at the NY Metropolitan Museum of Art (which is, at the time of writing, still open), or via online collections at [the Met](#), the [British Museum](#), the [San Francisco Asian Art Museum](#), the [Tokyo National Museum](#), [Harvard Library](#), and many more!

3. Two final essays (each max ~~2,000~~ 1,200 words) chosen from the questions below. Both essays should support their arguments with reference to texts discussed during the course. The same source may be discussed in multiple answers, but grades will reflect the total breadth of sources cited. Students may also (but are not required to) support their answers by citing additional sources as well. Due **Wed. 21st. Apr.**
- How has war shaped Japanese society?
  - What historical factors have shaped Japanese attitudes toward religion, and how have attitudes toward religion shaped Japanese history?
  - How has the role of the Japanese emperor changed throughout history?
  - How have the historical boundaries of “Japan” changed over space and time?

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#### STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to do your own work on all tests and assignments for this class, in accordance with the Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity and Honor Code established by the students of Columbia College and the School of General Studies:

<http://www.college.columbia.edu/faculty/resourcesforinstructors/academicintegrity/statement>  
<http://www.college.columbia.edu/ccschonorecode>

Because any academic integrity violation undermines our intellectual community, students found to have cheated, plagiarized, or committed any other act of academic dishonesty can expect to fail the class and may be referred to the Dean’s Discipline process. It is your responsibility to ensure that your work maintains the standards expected. **WARNING: Written assignments will be checked using anti-plagiarism software.**

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your work, you can: a) talk with your TA; b) ask the instructor; or c) refer to the Columbia University Undergraduate Guide to Academic Integrity, which includes information on what constitutes a violation of academic integrity and specific guidance on how to cite sources: <http://www.college.columbia.edu/academics/academicintegrity>

Those who are unclear on how to properly cite academic works may consult this site explaining correct formatting for the Chicago Manual of Style:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/>