HIST 498/598 MEDIEVAL JAPAN.

Dr. Andrew Goble
McKenzie 361
541-346-4800
platypus@uoregon.edu
Office Hours: MW 1015–1115

Department of History
University of Oregon
HIST 498/598, Fall 2013.
MWF 0900–0950; 214 McK
CRN 13795/13809

General

Japan’s medieval period (roughly 1150s-1580s) is fun to study. It is distinguished by social and political fluidity, and the decisive 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 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; castles; tea rooms, and Zen gardens), in conjunction with readings.

Evaluation

A. Attendance: 10%.

B. One quiz (10/21), worth 10% of course grade; one mid-term (11/04), worth 20% of course grade; one final (12/11), worth 30% of course grade. Study guides will be provided.

C. One 3500 word essay (30%). The essay is due no later than November 27. Late submission without good reason will be penalized (the demands of other courses do not constitute a reason). Please discuss the topic of the paper with the instructor (I enjoy the conversations) no later than 11/05.

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:
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 Blackboard. They are potentially examinable (the study guides will indicate which ones these are). A number of other items which may prove useful have also been 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](http://www.ames.cam.ac.uk/bib)
ANTICIPATED LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE.

9/30        Class 1: Course Introduction
            Souyri, chapter 1.
            *Currents*: Thomas Conlan, “Traces of the Past.”

10/02       Class 2: The Rise of the Warriors.
            Souyri, chapters 2, 3.
            *Currents*: Karl Friday, “What A Difference a Bow Makes.”
            *Currents*: Mikael Adolphson, “Benkei’s Ancestors.”

10/04       Class 3: Mr. Kevin McDowell, Knight Library Japanese Bibliographer.

10/07       Class 4: Yoritomo’s War: the 1180s
            Souyri, chapters 2, 3.
            *Currents*: Karl Friday, “What A Difference a Bow Makes.”

10/09       Class 5: Kamakura, the First Warrior Government.
            Souyri, chapter 4.
            *Currents*: Thomas Nelson, “Creating Constabular Authority.”

10/11       Class 6: Judging Warriors: Law and Adjudication.
            Souyri, chapter 4.
            Steenstrup, “The Legal System of Japan at the End of the Kamakura period.”

10/14       Class 7: Women and Property.
            Souyri, chapters 4.
            Tonomura, “Women and Inheritance.”
            *Currents*: Hitomi Tonomura, “Court and Bakufu in Her Flesh.”
10/16 Class 8: The Mongol Invasions of 1274 and 1281.
Souyri, chapter 4.

10/18 Class 9: Emperor Go-Daigo’s Revolt: The 14th Century Breakpoint.
Souyri, chapters 5, 7.
Conlan, “The Record of Nomoto Tomoyuki”
Goble, “War and Injury”

10/21 Class 10: Quiz.

10/23 Class 11: Illness and Affliction.
*Currents:* Andrew Goble, “Images of Illness.”

10/25 Class 12: Marginalization and Hospice.
Souyri, chapter 6.
*Currents:* Thomas Keirstead, “Outcasts Before the Law.”

Souyri, chapter 5.
Miyazaki, “The Religious Life of Kamakura bushi.”
Hirasawa, “The Inflatable Collapsible Kingdom of Retribution.”

10/30 Class 14: Building Zen Culture (1) Institutions.
Souyri, chapters 5, 10.
Collcutt, “Lanxi Daolong at Kenchōji,” in *Tools of Culture.*

11/01 Class 15: Building Zen Culture (2) Intellectual Life and Arts.
Souyri, chapters 5, 10.
11/04  Class 18: Mid-term exam.

11/06  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.

11/08  Class 17: Piracy – Domestic and International.
Souyri, chapters 8, 9.
*Currents*: Hyungsub Moon, “The Matsura Pirate-Warriors of Northwestern Kyushu in the Kamakura Age.”
Shapinsky, “Predators, Protectors, and Purveyors.”

11/11  Class 19: Kyoto and Commerce.
Souyri, chapter 10.
Gay, “The Lamp Oil Merchants of Iwashimizu Shrine.”
*Currents*: Ethan Segal, “Awash With Coins.”

11/13  Class 20: The Ōnin War, 1467-1477.
Souyri, chapter 10, 11.

Souyri, chapters 8, 11.

Souyri, chapter 10, 11, 12.
Butler, “Washing Off the Dust.”
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Steenstrup, “Hōjō Sōun’s Twenty-One Articles.”</td>
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<td>Steenstrup, “The Imagawa Letter.”</td>
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<td>11/22</td>
<td>Class 24</td>
<td>Warlords and War: The Takeda Army. Film: <em>Heaven and Earth</em></td>
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<td>Souyri, chapters 10-12 (for all days of the film).</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/25</td>
<td>Class 25</td>
<td>Film: <em>Heaven and Earth</em>.</td>
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<td>11/27</td>
<td>Class 26</td>
<td><em>Heaven and Earth</em>.</td>
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<td><strong>LAST DAY TO SUBMIT TERM PAPER.</strong></td>
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<td>11/29</td>
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<td>Thanksgiving - no class.</td>
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<td>12/02</td>
<td>Class 27</td>
<td>Nobunaga and Hideyoshi. Souyri, chapter 12.</td>
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<td>Asao, The Sixteenth Century Reunification.</td>
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<td>12/04</td>
<td>Class 28</td>
<td>Unifying and Transforming. Souyri, chapter 12.</td>
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<td>Watsky, “Commerce, Politics, and Tea.”</td>
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<td>12/06</td>
<td>Class 29</td>
<td>The Ending of the Medieval.</td>
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<td>12/11</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1015 Regular Classroom.</td>
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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 1600 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.