Introduction

This class will focus on two elements.

The first element is acquiring familiarity with the conventions of reading and transcription associated with the Sino-Japanese script known as Kanbun 漢文. Prior to the late nineteenth century, Japan was a biliterate culture; educated individuals as a matter of course might read and compose in Japanese form (Wabun 和文) or in Sino-Japanese form (Kanbun ). Texts might be composed using multiple orthographies, ranging from fully phonetic script, to fully Chinese (Kanbun) script. Among the types of materials for which Kanbun was the preferred (though not exclusive) form, we note official documents, laws and judicial decisions, medical texts, Buddhist texts, “Chinese poetry.” Among the social groups that considered Kanbun an inextricable part of their life were monks in the esoteric and Zen traditions, people of learning, aristocrats, and, increasingly over time, warrior educators and administrators. Without a good knowledge of Kanbun, one cannot, for example, fully understand either matters of administration and government, or the full extent and nature of Japan’s “Zen culture.”

The second element will be the study of Kamakura period legal texts (law code, judicial decisions and related documents) in order to become familiar with Kanbun, and also as a means of learning about issues of law and society in the medieval era.

General

The class will meet in principle twice-weekly. Evaluation will be done on the basis of overall performance.

The Kanbun texts to be examined will include the Kamakura bakufu law code of 1232, Goseibai Shikimoku 御成敗式目, and Kamakura legal documents found in the Kamakura ibun 鎌倉遺文.
Documents

Procedure: Read through *Goseibai Shikimoku* 御成敗式目, converting kanbun to yomikudashi Japanese reading, then translating into English.

We will use the text appearing in Satô Shin’ichi 佐藤進一 et al *Chûsei seiji shakai shisô*, 中世政治社会思想, vol. 1, pp. 1-38. For reference we will also have to hand the version appearing in Satô Shin’ichi 佐藤進一 and Ikeuchi Yoshisuke 池内義資, *Chûsei hôsei shiryôshû* 中世法制史料集 vol. 1, pp. 3-31 (Kanbun), and pp. 37-59 (kana). For “emergency use only,” we will avail ourselves of John Carey Hall’s 1906 English translation of the Shikimoku.

As appropriate, we will refer to selected Kamakura era judicial documents.

For overall legal and social background, we will refer to Jeffrey P Mass, *The Development of Kamakura Rule, 1180-1250: A Study With Documents.*

*Reference Tools*

In addition to any number of electronic dictionaries, or works in Japanese, that are available, it is useful to be aware of the following reference items.

1. Sidney Crawcour, *An Introduction to Kanbun* (but out of print and hard to find).

2. A *Kanwa jiten* 漢和辞典 such as Kadokawa's *Shinjigen* 角川新字源 (very usefully, has pinyin Chinese readings of characters).


7. A *Kogo Jiten* 古語辞典 (Kadokawa for example).

8. A *Nihonshi jiten* 日本史辞典 (various).

9. G. Sansom, *An Historical Grammar of Japanese* (comprehensive; and while it came out in the 1930s, deals well with subject matter that itself has not changed).
Documents


12. Nagahara Keiji 永原慶二 et al *Chūseishi Handobukku*.中世史ハンドブック
