SENGOKU ERA JAPAN.

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FOCUS OF COURSE.

Sengoku Japan (Japan of the Warring States Era) was the period spanning approximately and a half from the 1460s to early 1600s. Our focus will be the mid- and late- 16th century, which time is also denoted as the Azuchi–Momoyama era, or as part of what is called the “Christian Century.”

This period of time was one of the most destructive, creative, socially turbulent, ebullient, socially mobile, cosmopolitan, and adventurous eras in Japanese history. At a distance it was sweeping and exciting; up close it may have been unbearably traumatic.

Internal dynamics catalyzed urbanization, organizational change and technology, and cultural forms that later defined essential elements of “Japanese culture.” External developments expanded the worlds of Japanese and the Jesuits and secular Europeans (though “Europe” was not really a meaningful concept in this era) who for the first time impelled themselves around the globe.

It is also useful to note that the terms external and internal are only ones of convenience, for Japan was a politically divided entity with no stable center, and in some respects we observe “multiple Japan” with their own mixture of cultural and social rhythms.

We will explore some facets of this era.

EVALUATION.

One 4000 word term paper (5000 words for graduate students) is the main basis of the grade. Attendance and discussion will count for 10% of the grade. Term paper topic shall be chosen in consultation with instructor, and is due by the last class period.

Each week a portion of the class will be responsible for acting as “discussion leader” for the class, and for covering the readings for that week. Depending on class size, this would mean being part of the presentation group two or three times. Students not acting as discussion leaders are required at the minimum to have read and be prepared to discuss the “asterisked” readings.

REQUIRED TEXTS.

M.E. Berry. *Hideyoshi*.
M.E. Berry, *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto*. 
OTHER READING.

A number of works will be placed on reserve in the Reserve Reading Room of the Knight Library. These cover and supplement the required readings, and may serve as resources when considering your term paper. Some individual essays and articles are available as PDFs on Blackboard; others will be found in the edited collection in which they appear (and should be on course reserve); others may be found in the original journal (which would not be on reserve).

Required readings (ie all are expected to have read this for class) are marked by an asterisk. Discussion leaders in consultation with instructor are responsible for remaining material.

GENERAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

The most readily accessible bibliography may be found at: www.ames.cam.ac.uk/bib. It is readily navigable.

Bardwell Smith’s bibliographical essay in Warlords, Artists and Commoners is extensive for publications through 1980.

Another good guide is the “Works Cited” section of The Cambridge History of Japan, Volume 4, Early Modern Japan (available in electronic form through the Knight Library catalog).

For general background reading you might usefully consult such works as P. Souyri, The World Turned Upside Down; the relevant chapters of J.W. Hall, Japan From Prehistory to Modern Times; or H.P. Varley, Japanese Culture.

The Cambridge History of Japan, for which volumes 3 and 4 are relevant for this course (available in electronic form through the Knight Library catalog).
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READINGS.

01/06 Week One Course Introduction.
This week is an orientation week. The readings listed here are ones with which you ought to familiarize yourself well during the course. It is not expected that you will have read them completely by the first class.

* Asao Naohiro, “The Sixteenth Century Reunification.”

01/13 Week Two: Power.
* Berry, Mary Elizabeth. Hideyoshi.
* Berry, Mary Elizabeth. The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto.
Asao Naohiro, “The Sixteenth Century Reunification.”
Lamers, Jeroen. Japonius Tyrannus.
Berry, Mary Elizabeth. “Public Peace and Private Attachment.”

01/20 Week Three: Campaigns and Battles.
* Berry, Hideyoshi.
* Berry, The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto.
Stavros, “Military Revolution in Early Modern Japan.”
Neilson, David. Society at War.
Lamers, Jeroen. Japonius Tyrannus.
Tsang, Carol Richmond. “Advance and Be Reborn in Paradise.” In Ferejohn and Rosenbluth, War and State Building in Medieval Japan,” 91-109.
Turnbull, Stephen. Samurai Invasion.

01/27 Week Four: Religion, Community and Resistance.
* Berry, Hideyoshi.
* Tsang, Carol Richmond. “Advance and Be Reborn in Paradise.” In Ferejohn and Rosenbluth, War and State Building in Medieval Japan,” 91-109.
Tsang, Carol Richmond. War and Faith: Ikkō Ikki in Late Muromachi Japan.
02/03  **Week 5. Outside World Inside.**
* Boxer, Charles. *Japan’s Christian Century.*
* Cooper, Michael. *The Southern Barbarians.*

02/10 **Week 6. Places: Castles, Towns, Locales.**
* Berry, Mary Elizabeth. *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto.*
* Spafford, David. *A Sense of Place: The Political Landscape of Late Medieval Japan.*
* Stavros, Matthew. *Kyoto: An Urban History of Japan’s Pre-modern Capital.*
* McKelway, Matthew. *Capitalscapes.*
* Tonomura, Hitomi. *Community and Commerce in Late Medieval Japan: The Corporate Villages of Tokuchin-ho.*

02/17  **Week 7. Aesthetics: Tea, Painting, Play.**
* Berry, Mary Elizabeth. *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto.*
* Cooper, Michael ed. *The Southern Barbarians.*

02/24  **Week 8. Tentative: visit to Schnitzer Museum: Visualizing 16th Century: Paintings, Screens.**
* McKelway, Matthew. *Capitalscapes.*
* Berry, Mary Elizabeth. *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto.*

03/03  **Week 9. Individual Paper Consultation.**

03/10 **Week 10. Papers Due. Course Wrap-up.**