HIST 498 WARRING AGE JAPAN.

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HIST 498/598 (2); CRN 27353/27354.
MWF 0900-0950; McKenzie 229.

General

Japan’s Warring Age (Sengoku Era) lasted from the 1460s to the early 1600s. It is the only period in Japanese history in which warriors (samurai) regularly fought. It marks a period of bloody transition between the medieval era, and the early modern era. It is characterized by extensive organizational change, the first contact with Europeans, extensive social mobility, innovations in community and urban space, an eclectic cultural scene, spectacular successes and remarkable defeats, and economic vitality.

Warring Age Japan 498 melds a chronological and topical approach, and utilizes lectures, films, and visual sources (such portraits of lay and religious figures; castles; tea rooms) in conjunction with readings.

Evaluation

A. Attendance: 10%.
B. one mid-term (February 09), worth 20% of course grade; one final (03/06), worth 30% of course grade. Study guides on Blackboard.
C. One 3500 word (graduate students 4000 word) essay (40%). Due no later than March 09. Late submission without good reason may be penalized. Please discuss the topic of the paper with the instructor no later than February 18.

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).


Additional readings, which can also serve as resources when considering your term paper, are provided on Blackboard. Some are potentially examinable (the study guides will indicate which ones these are).

General background reading: For a general background I recommend surveys such as J.W. Hall’s Japan From Prehistory to Modern Times, or P. Souyri’s World Turned Upside Down.

The bibliography in Warlords, Artists, and Commoners is a good resource. An up-to-date, comprehensive, and easily navigable bibliography for pre-modern Japanese history is online at: www.ames.cam.ac.uk/bib.
ANTICIPATED LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE.

01/05  Class 1: Course Introduction
Hall, John W. “Japan’s Sixteenth Century Revolution.”

01/07  Class 2: Unleashing the Warring Age: The Ōnin War, 1467-1477.
Hall, John W. “The Muromachi Bakufu.”
Varley, H. Paul. The Ōnin War.

01/09  Class 3: Mr. Kevin McDowell, Knight Library Japanese Bibliographer.

01/12  Class 4: Film: Ugetsu.
Neilson, David. “Society At War.”

01/14  Class 5: Film: Ugetsu.
Neilson, David. “Society At War.”

01/16  Class 6: Villagers and Instability.
Wakita Osamu and James L. McClain, “The Social and Economic Consequences of Unification.”

01/19  Martin Luther King Day – no class.

01/21  Class 7: Daimyō and Governing.
Birt, Michael. “Samurai in Passage.”
Steenstrup, Carl. “Hōjō Sōun.”

01/23  Class 8: Guest Lecture: Ms. Emily Cole: Castles and Fortifications.
Wheelwright, Carolyn. “A Visualization of Eitoku’s Lost Paintings at Azuchi Castle.”

01/26  Class 9: Armor and Weapons.
Stavros, Matthew. “Military Revolution in Early Modern Japan.”

01/28  Class 10: Warlords: The Mōri.
Goble, Andrew Edmund. “Manase Physicians, Mōri daimyō, and the New Medico-Cultural Nexus of the Late 16th Century.”
01/30  Class 11: Oda Nobunaga: The Terror.
        Neilson, David. Society at War.

02/02  Class 12: The Takeda and the 1564 Battle of Kawanakajima.
        Turnbull, Stephen, Kawanakajima 1553-1564: Samurai Power Struggle.

02/04  Class 13: Heaven and Earth.

02/06  Class 14: Heaven and Earth.

02/09  Class 15: Mid-Term exam.

02/11  Class 16: New Worlds: Outside Coming In.
        Pacheco, Diego. “The Founding of the Port of Nagasaki and its Cession to the Society of
        Jesus.”
        Correia, Pedro Lage Reis. “Francisco Cabral and Laurenco Mexia in Macao (1582-1584): Two Different
        Perspectives on Evangelisation in Japan.”

02/13  Class 17: New Worlds: Europeans and Christianity.
        Elison, George. “Christianity and the Daimyo.”
        Elisonas, G.S.A. “Journey to the West.”
        Mansour, Opher. “Picturing Global Conversion: Art and Diplomacy at the Court of Paul V
        (1605-1621).”

02/16  Class 18: Religion and Rebellion: Honganji.
        TBA

02/18  Class 19: Towns and Cities.
        Malm, William P. “Musical Cultures of Momoyama Japan.”

02/20  Class 20: Commerce and Trade.
        Gay, Suzanne. “The Lamp Oil Merchants of Iwashimizu Shrine.”
        Iaccarino, Ubaldo. “Manila as an International Entrepot: Chinese and Japanese Trade with
        the Spanish Philippines at the Close of the 16th Century.”
02/23  Class 21: Medicine and Community.
       Goble, Andrew Edmund. “Rhythms of Medicine and Community in Late Sixteenth Century Japan: Yamashina Tokitsune (1543-1611) and His Patients.

02/25  Class 22: Tea and Aesthetics.
       Rath, Eric. “Rikyū and Cuisine.”

       TBA

03/02  Class 24: Nishi Onkata and Family Medicine.
       Goble, Andrew Edmund. “Rhythms of Medicine and Community in Late Sixteenth Century Japan: Yamashina Tokitsune (1543-1611) and His Patients.

03/04  Class 25: The Korean Invasions.
       TBA

03/06  Class 26: Guest lecture: Ms. Bree Goosmann: Vicissitudes.
       Fister, Patricia. “Sanmi no Tsubone: Ashikaga Wife, Imperial Consort, Buddhist Devotee and Patron.”

03/09  Class 27: Hideyoshi’s Policies Transforming Society.
       Elison, George. “Hideyoshi, the Bountiful Minister.”
       Wakita, Osamu. “The Emergence of the State in Sixteenth-Century Japan: From Oda to Tokugawa.”

LAST DAY TO SUBMIT TERM PAPER.

03/11  Class 28: Ieyasu and Sekigahara.
       Wakita, Osamu. “The Emergence of the State in Sixteenth-Century Japan: From Oda to Tokugawa.”

03/13  Class 29: Wrap up of the Warring Age.

03/16  Final Exam, 1015; Regular Classroom, 229 McKenzie.
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 roughly 1470 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.