This course covers important political issues in medieval and pre-modern Japanese history. These include the medieval decentralization of state power, unification in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, the Tokugawa system of rule, and conflicts between rulers and ruled. It also examines long-term changes in economy, society, and culture.

In addition to the historical content, students will learn and practice:
1) Reading and analyzing primary sources and scholarly works effectively.
2) Producing interpretative arguments using a variety of evidence and argumentative reasoning.
3) Collaborative problem solving and oral presentation skills.

Also, each half of the course will challenge students to consider a broader methodological question about the discipline of history. The first is epistemological: what can we know about the past and how should we know it? The second is critical: what political implications follow from the various epistemological suppositions?

Course Requirements
20% Term Paper (Due date self-assigned. The prompt will be distributed on October 4.)
25% Midterm Examination (In-class essay exam Nov 4. The prompts will be distributed on Oct 28.)
45% Final Examination (Essay exam Monday, December 9, 11:30-2:29, location TBA. Prompts will be distributed on Monday, Dec. 2. It will be cumulative. For the final examination individual students may write their own prompts with the instructor's approval.)
10% Quizzes (7 unscheduled quizzes will be given throughout the quarter on the readings and the vocabulary list. They will be graded on a credit/no credit basis and are each worth 2% of the total course grade, up to a maximum of 10%. Please bring blank paper and a pen to every class.)

Reading assignments consist of a combination of primary and secondary sources and should be completed prior to the date of the class listed. Please bring the readings to class and be ready to use them for discussion.

Required Books (Available at the campus bookstore and on two-hour reserve at the library)
*Saikaku, Ihara. The Life of an Amorous Woman.

Articles and book excerpts are available at the UCSD library reserves page or as listed for each lecture. The password for the UCSD library reserves page for this course is: gd111.

Students are expected to attend each class meeting. If an absence is unavoidable, get notes from a fellow student. Students must complete the term paper and the two exams to receive a passing grade. Requests for exceptions/extensions will not be considered without written documentation of a grave emergency. Students must adhere to standards of academic integrity as defined by University policy. All students must do their own work. No collaboration outside of class time is allowed. Use of others' words or ideas requires a clear citation.
Concerning the expected workload for this course: university policy states that a four unit class requires twelve hours of work per week. This course is designed to take ten hours per week on average. Since lecture takes three hours per week, students should expect to spend around seven hours per week doing the readings, reviewing notes, and preparing the course assignments.

Students requesting accommodations and services due to a disability for this course need to provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), prior to eligibility for requests. Receipt of AFAs in advance is necessary for appropriate planning for the provision of reasonable accommodations. OSD Academic Liaisons also need to receive current AFA letters.

Course Schedule
The schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in lecture.

-------------Section A: The Medieval Era (1180-1600)-------------

Week 0: Introduction
Fri, September 27: Introduction, Syllabus & Course Outline/Objectives

Week 1: The Gempei War (1180-1185)


Study Questions: How can we best characterize the Kamakura-Kyoto fusion of older Heian institutions with new ones emerging from the Gempei civil war? What does Tales of the Heike tell us 1) about the events of the war, 2) about warrior values during the medieval era more broadly?

Week 2: The Kamakura (Minamoto) Era (1185-1333)


Study Questions: What was life like for ordinary people in Medieval Japan? How did they use Buddhism to make meaning out of everyday experiences? How can we best characterize Japan's place in the world system of the 13th century?

Week 3: The Muromachi (Ashikaga) Era (1333-1600)


Study Questions: How did Ashikaga rule further decentralize state power? What was the economy like during this period? How did ikki re-imagine social and political structures?

**Week 4: Medieval Culture and Society**


Study Questions: What were the performing and visual arts of the medieval era and what were their political implications? What was agricultural life like and how did people understand gender?

**Week 5: Sengoku—The Civil War Era (1467-1600)**


Study Questions: How can we understand the Sengoku era as a social historical event? How did ordinary people carry out a thoroughgoing transformation of the structures of authority at the village, neighborhood, and regional levels?

----------Section B: The Edo (Tokugawa) Era (1600-1867)----------

**Week 6: The Edo Bakufu**

Mon, Nov 4: Midterm Exam


Study Questions: How did the bakufu try to maintain peace among daimyo? What institutions bolstered Tokugawa power and authority?

**Week 7: Early Modern Economy and Society**

Mon, Nov 11: Veterans Day, no class.


Fri, Nov 15: Topic and reading TBD

Study Questions: To what extent did economic change during the Tokugawa era prepare the groundwork for later industrialization? How does the demographics of the Edo period relate to scholars' arguments about the importance of premodern economic growth?

**Week 8: Edo Life**


Study Questions: What gendered attributes did townspeople idealize? What kinds of institutions educated children during the Edo period? How did the state manage law enforcement, sanitation, and the environment?

**Week 9: “Japan”**


Wed, Nov 27: Thanksgiving break, no class.

Fri, Nov 29: Thanksgiving break, no class.

Study Questions: How did new ideologies promote thinking about Japan as a singular geographic and demographic unit?

**Week 10: Fear and Opportunity in the 19th Century**


Fri, Dec 6: Wrap Up and Review.

Study Questions: What domestic and international events challenged bakufu rule in the late 18th and early 19th centuries?
Vocabulary List

Biwa: Lute.
Bushi: Military aristocracy, warrior estate, samurai.
Daimyo: Regional military lord.
Gekokujō: The overthrow of a superior by an inferior. The political upheaval of the Sengoku period.
Gokenin: A retainer or vassal of a lord.
Ikki: A league of warriors or commoners and/or an uprising by such a league.
Jitō: Military estate steward appointed by the Kamakura bakufu. The most important local official of the Kamakura period.
Nembutsu: Invocation of the sacred name of Amida Buddha to ensure rebirth in the Pure Land.
Noh: A form of musical dance drama from the fourteenth century with plots drawn from legend, history, literature and contemporary events.
Shogun: “Barbarian-subduing general.” A title bestowed by the emperor. Under Minamoto rule the shogun became an independent military ruler of Japan.
Shōen: Estates created through the privatization of public land from the 8th to 12th centuries. Created through land reclamation, imperial gifts, and appropriation by high-ranked officials.
Shugo: Provincial constable, military governor.
Ukiyo-e: “Pictures of the floating world.” A genre of art from the mid to late Tokugawa period.
Za: A trade or craft guild from the 11th century.

Source Citations


*Tales of the Heike.* Translated by A.L. Sadler. [http://library.uoregon.edu/ec/e-asia/read/heike-whole.pdf](http://library.uoregon.edu/ec/e-asia/read/heike-whole.pdf)


