

Fall 2006

History 90/393  
**Journeys to Japan, 1550-1900**

Time: Tues 2-4:50

Professor: Daniel Botsman

Classroom: Tate Turner Kuralt 113

Office: Hamilton Hall 455

Office hours: Tues.  
11-12 or by  
appointment

This course provides students with an opportunity to conduct research on the history of Japan using primary source materials written in Western languages by travelers, missionaries, adventurers, teachers, and traders from Europe and America between the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Through our readings and discussions we will also explore key intellectual questions about Orientalism, imperialism, representation of (i.e. how people write about and describe) other cultures, and, of course, Japan's particular place in the Western historical imagination. At the end of the semester each student will submit a polished, 20 page research paper on a topic of his or her choice.

Course structure:

The course will be divided into **three parts**. During the first seven weeks of the semester our main focus will be on reading a selection of Western accounts of journeys to Japan (around 150 pages each week) arranged chronologically. In class we will discuss the strategies and methods historians use to evaluate and make sense of such sources, as well as the specific content of each set of readings. By the end of this part of the course students will have selected a research topic and begun identifying relevant **primary sources**. In week seven you will be asked to give a submit a short essay and give a brief presentation to the rest of the class introducing one of the primary sources that you plan to use for your paper.

In the second part of the class, from weeks 9 to 12, you will prepare a bibliography for your research topic, begin evaluating relevant **secondary sources**, and put together a draft outline for your paper. In conjunction with this we

will turn our attention in class to some key historiographical questions: What kinds of images and stereotypes have tended to shape Western views of Japan? How have they changed over time? What role have these images played in the West? What is the relationship between travel writing, imperialism, and the representation of cultural Others? How might these questions shape the way a historian uses the kinds of sources we have examined in the class? How might they be relevant to your particular research topic?

In the final weeks of the semester students will continue **writing up** their research papers under close supervision and with the input of their classmates. In general, it is hoped that over the course of the semester members of the class will learn to work together in an open, collaborative manner - sharing discoveries and comments - while, of course, always maintaining proper respect for the integrity of each other's work.

**Final grades will be determined as follows:**

Weekly participation 10%

"Four questions" assignment (Due 9/12 - week 3) 5%  
 Final topic choice and list of primary sources (Due 10/3 - week 6) 5%

Primary source review (Due 10/10 - week 7) 10%

Draft bibliography (Due Friday, 10/27 - week 9) 10%  
 Secondary source review (Due Friday, 10/27 - week 9) 10%  
 Draft introduction and outline (Due 11/7 - week 11) 5%

Revised introduction and outline (Due 11/21 - week 13) 10%  
 Final paper (Due 12/5) - week 15) 35%

**Attendance policy:**

Attendance at scheduled class meetings is mandatory. Unexcused absences will be penalized and may result in a failing grade.

**Extension policy:**

The class has been designed to give you ample time to prepare your assignments and, in particular, your final paper, by the due dates listed. Extensions will not be granted unless you have a **very** good reason (i.e. a medical or family emergency). Please plan your time so that you do not have regrets later!

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS:**Week 1 (8/29) Course overview****Part I READING SOURCES****Week 2 (9/5) First contact: Europeans and the “Warring States”**

Reading: Michael Cooper, ed., *They Came to Japan: An Anthology of European Reports on Japan, 1543-1640*

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 “The four questions” to ask when grappling with a document:  
 1. Who wrote the document?  
 2. For whom was it written?  
 3. Why was it written?  
 4. What is an illuminating historical context for the document?  
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**Week 3 (9/12) A German view of early Tokugawa Society**

Reading: Engelbert Kaempfer, *Kaempfer’s Japan: Tokugawa Culture Observed*

Assignment: Write answers to “the four questions” for this week’s reading (1 page) (5%).

**Week 4 (9/19) Deshima, Japan and Europe’s “Warring States”**

Reading: Hendrik Doeff, *Recollections of Japan*

Assignment: Start thinking about your research topic and come to class ready to throw out some ideas!

This week you will receive several bibliographies of primary source materials available in the UNC and Duke libraries to help you with your assignments in weeks 6 and 7. You will need to set aside some time this week and next to start digging for materials in the libraries. If you do not feel confident using

the library to do your research, please be sure to let me know and I will be happy to help!

**Week 5 (9/26) An American businessman in the final years of Tokugawa rule**

Reading: Francis Hall, *Japan Through American Eyes: The Journal of Francis Hall*

Assignment: Preliminary topic proposals. Choose two or three possible research topics and write a few sentences on each one explaining why you think it is interesting and significant (Although this assignment will not be graded, it will affect your overall participation grade.)

**Week 6 (10/3) An Englishwoman in “New Japan”**

Reading: Isabella Bird, *Unbeaten Tracks in Japan*

Assignment: Prepare a brief (one paragraph) explanation of your final topic choice and a list of relevant primary sources (5%)

**Week 7 (10/10) Class conference on primary sources**

Assignment: Write a short (2-3 page) essay introducing and evaluating one of the primary sources you plan to use for your paper. Be sure to answer the following questions: What kind of source is it? When was it compiled and by whom? What kinds of information does it provide? How reliable it is? How will it help you in your research? What kind of connections can be made to other primary sources? (10%)

In class this week **each student will be asked to give a brief (5-10 min.) presentation** on the primary source they have written about and have an opportunity to respond to questions and comments from their classmates.

**Week 8 (10/17) FALL BREAK – No class**

We will not be meeting for class this week in order to ensure that you can put some time aside to begin preparing your book review and bibliographies, which are due at the end of next week! In other words, go to the library **before** you leave town!!

## ***Part II REPRESENTING CULTURES***

### ***Week 9 (10/24) The Politics of Cultural Representation: Japan and “the Orient”***

Readings: Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Endymion Wilkinson, *Europe vs. Japan*

Arif Dirlik, “Chinese History and the Question of Orientalism,”  
*History and Theory* 35:4 (December 1996): 96-118.

Assignment: Prepare a bibliography of both the primary and secondary sources you plan to use in your paper. Then write a 3 to 5 page essay reviewing one work of secondary scholarship that will be particularly important for your research topic. How will the book be of use to you? Has it helped you think about your topic in a new way? Do you see any problems with the author’s approach or conclusions? Be sure to include the publishing details (date and place of publication, and the name of the publisher) at the top of your review.)

(Bibliography 10% + Book Review 10% = 20%)

**Due via email by 5pm, Friday, October 27.**

### ***Week 10 (10/31) WRITING WEEK – Preparation of a draft introduction and outline for your final paper***

There will be no class meeting this week to allow you to

**START WRITING!!!**

### ***Week 11 (11/7) The Uses of Cross-Cultural Comparison: Punishment as an example***

Readings: Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Daniel V. Botsman, *Punishment and Power in the Making of Modern Japan*

Assignment: Bring to class a **draft introduction (two to three pages) and a detailed outline** showing how you plan to organize your final paper. (5%)

**Week 12 (11/14) History, Imagination and the Role of the Author: Fun with Foreigners in Meiji Japan**

Reading: Robert A. Rosenstone, *Mirror in the Shrine: American Encounters with Meiji Japan*

Assignment: Think about how you can have a little bit of fun with your topic. See if you can find some photographs or other images to help bring your topic to life.

***PART III THE JOURNEY HOME***

**Week 13 (11/21) Discussion of revised introductions and the writing up process**

Assignment: Drawing on the comments you received on your drafts, prepare a more polished version of your introduction and a revised paper outline, with more detail about each section of your paper. (10%)

In class this week we will discuss your progress and any problems you have encountered.

**Week 14 (11/28) Individual meetings to discuss your paper drafts (to be scheduled during class time – so no excuses for not coming!)**

***Week 15 (12/5) Home Sweet Home – Submission and discussion of final papers***

**FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE IN CLASS THIS WEEK.** Our final discussion will give us a chance to reflect as a group on the writing process (what to do and what to avoid in the future) and the class more generally.