

(Provisional Syllabus) HH 2030: *Ascetics and Aesthetics of Medieval Japan*

Asst. Prof. Nicholas Witkowski

Time Tuesday 13:30-15:20

Venue: Online Format

Email: nwitkowski@ntu.edu.sg

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Aims

The course is a social, religion, aesthetic, and intellectual history of pre-modern Japan, mapping both institutional shifts and the distinct cultures that emerged in the early Buddhist temple complexes of ancient Nara, in women's quarters of the Heian court of Kyoto, in the medieval capital of Kamakura, among the samurai of the Warring States Period and in the tea houses and pleasure districts of Edo (early Tokyo). The course will engage the Japanese experience from a wide range of thematic and cultural perspectives. Themes will include religion and ritual, political and military cultures, the machinations of court intrigue, the brilliant and melancholy literary productions of aristocratic women, the rise of a Buddhist intelligentsia, and the emergence of the high arts that have come to define what we all know and love about Japanese culture today.

Intended Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Distinguish between the class and gender formations as they shift and re-align through Japanese history.
2. Properly read and interpret a number of pieces of visual imagery from different periods in Japanese history and understand each of their art historical context.
3. Understand the religious underpinnings for key shifts in Japanese culture.
4. Learn how to interpret literary productions in ancient and medieval Japan according to their cultural contexts.
5. Explain how key political and military constituencies in ancient and medieval Japan re-aligned according to changing historical circumstances.

Requirements and Expectations

You are responsible for checking your email **daily** for messages from myself, your TA, or from Blackboard to find out about upcoming assignments

Every week after class you will receive a list of the following week's readings, exact sources and page numbers, and instructions for your weekly response

Participation – 10%: You are required to be present and ready to participate in each lecture class and during group discussions in the tutorial, having completed the week's readings beforehand. Both the readings **AND** lectures will be tested on the final assignment.

Weekly Online Submissions – 20%: Each week, you are to submit online a 300-word **analysis** of at least one **primary source utilizing accompanying secondary sources**. You will submit the primary

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Primary Sources: Shikibu, Selections

Week (6)

Dueling Political Centers: Kamakura v. Kyōtō

Secondary Sources: Souyri, Chapters 1-3

Primary Sources: Shirane, Selections

Week (7)

Medieval Feudalism and the Rise of the Samurai Culture

Secondary Sources: Souyri, Chapters 4-6

Primary Sources: McCullough, Selections

Week (8)

Buddhism, Karma, and Horror Literature in Medieval Japan

In-class Film Showing: *Ugetsu*

Assignment Due: Midterm Essay (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Week (9)

The Rhetoric of Desire and Disaster: Medieval Japanese Buddhist Literatures

Secondary Sources: LeFleur, Chapters 1 and 2

Primary Sources: Chomei, Selections

Week (10)

The Warring States Period and the Transition to Edo

Secondary Sources: Souyri, Chapter 7-8

Primary Sources: Shirane, Selections

Week (11)

The Beginnings of Modern Japanese Culture: Tea Ceremony, Zen, and the Noh Play in 15th century Kyōtō

Secondary Sources: Souyri, Chapters 9

Primary Sources: Shirane, Selections

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Week (12)

The Cultures of the Everyday in Edo Period Japan

Secondary Sources: TBA

Primary Sources: Jones and Watanabe, Selections

Week (13)

The Cultures of Pleasure in Edo Period Japan

Assignment Due: Final Assignment (submit on Blackboard by 23:59)

Secondary Sources: Screech, Chapters 1-3

Primary Sources: Jones and Watanabe, Selections

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Readings

Texts subject to changes

Arntzen, Sonja and Itō Moriyuki (trans.) (2018). *The Sarashina Diary: A Woman's Life in Eleventh-Century Japan*. New York: CUP.

Chomei, Kamo-no (1996). *Hojoki: Visions of a Torn World*, trans. Yasuhiko Moriguchi and David Jenkins. Berkeley: Stone Bridge Press.

Como, Michael I. (2008). *Shōtoku: Ethnicity, Ritual and Violence in the Japanese Buddhist Tradition*. Oxford: OUP.

Friday, Karl (2010). "They Were Soldiers Once: The Early Samurai and the Imperial Court." In *War and State-Building in Medieval Japan*. Stanford: SUP.

Friday, Karl (2017). *Routledge Handbook of Premodern Japanese History*. London: Routledge.

Goodwin, Janet and Joan Piggott (2018). *Land, Power, and the Sacred: The Estate System in Medieval Japan*.

Jones, Sumie and Kenji Watanabe. (2013). *An Edo Anthology: Literature from Japan's Mega-City, 1750-1850*. Honolulu: HUP.

LaFleur, William R. (1986). *The Karma of Words: Buddhism and the Literary Arts in Medieval Japan*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

McCullough, Helen (trans.) (2004). *The Taiheiki: A Chronicle of Medieval Japan*. New York: CUP.

Morris, Ivan (2013). *The World of the Shining Prince: Court Life in Ancient Japan*. New York: Vintage.

Pandey, Rajyashree (1998). *Writing and Renunciation in Medieval Japan: The Works of the Poet-Priest Kamo no Chomei*. Ann Arbor: UMP.

Screech, Timon (2009). *Sex and the Floating World: Erotic Images in Japan 1700-1820*. London: Reaktion.

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Shikibu, Murasaki (2003). *The Tale of Genji*, trans. Royall Tyler. London: Penguin.

Shirane, Haruo (ed.) (2007). *Traditional Japanese Literature: An Anthology*. New York: CUP.

Souryi, Pierre Francois (2003). *The World Turned Upside Down: Medieval Japanese Society*. New York: CUP.

Steininger, Brian (2016). *Chinese Literary Forms in Heian Japan: Poetics and Practice*. Cambridge: HUP.

Tanabe, George, Jr. (ed.) (1999). *Religions of Japan in Practice*. Princeton: PUP.

Yasumaro, O no (2014). *The Kojiki*, trans. Gustav Heldt. New York: CUP.

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Course Policies

(1) General

You are expected to complete all assigned pre-class readings and activities, attend all lectures/tutorials punctually and take all scheduled assignments and tests by due dates. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for seminar sessions you have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.

(2) Absenteeism

Absence from class without a valid reason can affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include falling sick supported by a medical certificate and participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies.

If you miss a lecture, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.

(3) Late submission of assignments and extensions

Midterm essay assignments that are submitted past the due date will be deducted 10% off the mark assigned per day that the assignment is late, down to the pass mark (40%). That is, you will not be failed merely on late submission, but there is a significant penalty per day. If you receive 65% and your assignment is 1 day late, your mark will be 55% (a 10% penalty). If you receive 60% and your assignment is 4 days late, you will receive 40% (since I do not deduct below the pass mark).

Extensions: If you require an extension please email me **prior to day the assignment is due**. Extensions will only be given in cases of illness (in which a student presents a medical certificate) or in serious extenuating circumstances.

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Appendix: Course Style Guide

1. Format of all written assignments

1.A. Font

The essay should be in Times New Roman font. The body of paragraphs should be 12 point size. Headings should be 14 point size and footnotes 10 point size.

1.B. Spacing

The body of the essay (including block quotations) should be double spaced. However, footnotes may be single spaced.

2. Elements of style

2.A. Quotations

Double quotation marks should be used. Quotations within quotations should be indicated with single quotation marks. Place commas and full stops inside quotations and other punctuation marks (e.g. colons and semi-colons) outside the quotation, unless they are part of the quoted text.

Short quotes: Short quotations from other sources should be included in quotation marks within the body of the paragraph.

Block quotes: Quotations of four or more lines (before indenting) should be formatted as a block quote. In a block quote, the quoted text should be in a separate paragraph from the main text and indented from the margin. Neither italics nor quotation marks should be used in a block quote unless they appear in the original. The footnote to the quote should be included at the end of the quote, after the punctuation mark. The quoted text should be in double line spacing (like the main text).

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2.B. Spelling

The essay should be in the English language. Students may use either American or British spelling, but should be consistent throughout. Quotations should follow the original text precisely, even if there are spelling or grammatical errors in the original. Students should insert “[sic]” after spelling and grammatical mistakes in quotations.

2.C. Italics

Italics should be used for non-English language words. However, words of non-English language origin that are commonly used in English (such as “bazaar”) do not need to be in italics. Moreover, foreign language proper nouns such as names, places, and organisations (for example, “Guomindang” or “Barisan Nasional”) should not be italicised.

2.D. References to titles in the text

References to the titles of books, pamphlets, films, etc. should follow the referencing style (see section 2 below). Thus, the following titles should be italicised: books; pamphlets; periodicals; plays; and films. The following should be enclosed in quotation marks: titles of articles; book chapters; unpublished works; and theses.

2.E. Brackets

Round brackets should be used in the main text (these are round brackets). Square brackets should be used for insertions in quotations, if an insertion is required so that the quoted sentence makes sense. For example: Washington stated in his 1796 Farewell Address, “The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you [the American people].”

2.F. Numbers and dates

Spell out numbers less than ten, except for page numbers and dates, and material in footnotes and bibliography (see section 2 below on referencing style).

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For dates, use the following forms: 20 December 1875; 1875–77; nineteenth century; 1870s; 200 B.C. and A.D. 200. Including A.D. is only necessary if non-inclusion would cause confusion. Abbreviations may be used in footnotes, e.g.: 20 Dec. 1875.

The following are examples of correct and incorrect references to decades:

The doctor gave up smoking back in the 1980's. → Incorrect

The doctor gave up smoking back in the 1980s. → Correct

The doctor gave up smoking back in the '80's. → Incorrect

The doctor gave up smoking back in the '80s. → Correct

3. Footnote and bibliography referencing style

Students are required to use the 16th edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, which is available on-shelf in the NTU library. Below are examples of footnote and bibliography references taken from the Chicago style guide.

3.A. Footnotes

The first time a work is referenced in the footnotes, a full reference (including full author name, title and publication details) should be used. Subsequent references should be shortened to author's family name, short title and page number. When the same work is referenced in two consecutive footnotes, "Ibid., [page number]" should be used for the second footnote.

Book

One author

1. Michael Pollan, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals* (New York: Penguin, 2006), 99–100.

[Short reference: Pollan, *Omnivore's Dilemma*, 3.]

Two or more authors

1. Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns, *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945* (New York: Knopf, 2007), 52.

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[Short reference: Ward and Burns, *War*, 59–61.]

Four or more authors: List all of the authors in the bibliography; in the note, list only the first author, followed by *et al.* (“and others”):

1. Dana Barnes et al., *Plastics: Essays on American Corporate Ascendance in the 1960s . . .*

Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author

1. Richmond Lattimore, trans., *The Iliad of Homer* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951), 91–92.

[Short reference: Lattimore, *Iliad*, 24.]

Editor, translator, or compiler in addition to author

1. Gabriel García Márquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*, trans. Edith Grossman (London: Cape, 1988), 242–55.

[Short reference: García Márquez, *Cholera*, 33.]

Chapter or other part of a book

Book chapter:

1. John D. Kelly, “Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War,” in *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency*, ed. John D. Kelly et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010), 77.

[Short reference: Kelly, “Seeing Red,” 81–82.]

Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book

1. James Rieger, introduction to *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982), xx–xxi.

[Short reference: Rieger, introduction, xxxiii.]

Book published electronically

If a book is available in more than one format, cite the version you consulted. For books consulted online, list a URL. Include the year that the book was published, not the date it was put online, or the date you accessed it. If no fixed page numbers are available, you can include a section title or chapter number.

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1. Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2007), Kindle edition.
2. Philip B. Kurland and Ralph Lerner, eds., *The Founders' Constitution* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1987), <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/>.
3. Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*. [Short reference]
4. Kurland and Lerner, *Founder's Constitution*, chap. 10, doc. 19. [Short reference]

Periodical

Article in a print journal

In a note, list the specific page numbers consulted, if any. In the bibliography, list the page range for the whole article. If you access a print journal electronically, you do not need to include the URL or DOI (Digital Object Identifier). A DOI is a permanent ID that, when appended to <http://dx.doi.org/> in the address bar of an Internet browser, will lead to the source. URL's and DOI's are only necessary for journals which are published in electronic format only (see below).

1. Joshua I. Weinstein, "The Market in Plato's *Republic*," *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 440. [Short reference: Weinstein, "Plato's *Republic*," 452–53.]

Article in an online journal

Include a DOI if the journal lists one. If no DOI is available, list a URL. Do not include an access date.

1. Gueorgi Kossinets and Duncan J. Watts, "Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network," *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (2009): 411, accessed February 28, 2010, doi:10.1086/599247.

[Short reference: Kossinets and Watts, "Origins of Homophily," 439.]

Article in a newspaper or popular magazine

If you consulted the article online, include a URL; an access date is not necessary. If no author is identified, begin the citation with the article title.

1. Daniel Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," *New Yorker*, January 25, 2010, 68.
2. Sheryl Gay Stolberg and Robert Pear, "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote," *New York Times*, February 27, 2010, accessed February 28, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>.
3. Mendelsohn, "But Enough about Me," 69. [Short reference]

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4. Stolberg and Pear, “Wary Centrists.” [Short reference]

Book review

1. David Kamp, “Deconstructing Dinner,” review of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan, *New York Times*, April 23, 2006, Sunday Book Review, <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/23/books/review/23kamp.html>.

[Short reference: Kamp, “Deconstructing Dinner.”]

Unpublished source

Essay or dissertation

1. Mihwa Choi, “Contesting *Imaginaires* in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty” (PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008).

[Short reference: Choi, “Contesting *Imaginaires*.”]

Paper presented at a meeting or conference

1. Rachel Adelman, “‘Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On’: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and Midrashic Tradition” (paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21–24, 2009).

[Short reference: Adelman, “Such Stuff as Dreams.”]

Website

Because website content is subject to change, include an access date or, if available, a date that the site was last modified.

1. “Google Privacy Policy,” last modified March 11, 2009, <http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>.

2. “McDonald’s Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts,” McDonald’s Corporation, accessed July 19, 2008, <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html>.

3. “Google Privacy Policy.” [Short reference]

4. “Toy Safety Facts.” [Short reference]

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3.B. Bibliography

The bibliography below contains examples of each of the source types listed above. **The source type is included in square brackets after the example. You obviously should not include this in your bibliography.** The sources should be listed in the bibliography according to alphabetical order (as below).

For journal articles and book chapters, include the page number range of the article/chapter in the bibliography. For other types of books, it is not necessary to include the pages or chapters you consulted.

Bibliography entries should be indented from the margin from the second line (as below).

Adelman, Rachel. “‘Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On’: God’s Footstool in the Aramaic Targumim and Midrashic Tradition.” Paper presented at the annual meeting for the Society of Biblical Literature, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 21–24, 2009. [Paper presented at a meeting or conference]

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. New York: Penguin Classics, 2007. Kindle edition. [Book published electronically]

Choi, Mihwa. “Contesting *Imaginaires* in Death Rituals during the Northern Song Dynasty.” PhD diss., University of Chicago, 2008. [Essay or dissertation]

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Google. “Google Privacy Policy.” Last modified March 11, 2009.
<http://www.google.com/intl/en/privacypolicy.html>. [Website]

Kamp, David. “Deconstructing Dinner.” Review of *The Omnivore’s Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan. *New York Times*, April 23, 2006, Sunday Book Review.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/04/23/books/review/23kamp.html>. [Book review]

Kelly, John D. “Seeing Red: Mao Fetishism, Pax Americana, and the Moral Economy of War.” In *Anthropology and Global Counterinsurgency*, edited by John D. Kelly, Beatrice Jauregui, Sean T. Mitchell, and Jeremy Walton, 67–83. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010. [Book chapter]

Kossinets, Gueorgi, and Duncan J. Watts. “Origins of Homophily in an Evolving Social Network.” *American Journal of Sociology* 115 (2009): 405–50. Accessed February 28, 2010. doi:10.1086/599247. [Article in an online journal.]

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Lattimore, Richmond, trans. *The Iliad of Homer*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951. [Editor, translator, or compiler instead of author]

McDonald's Corporation. "McDonald's Happy Meal Toy Safety Facts." Accessed July 19, 2008. <http://www.mcdonalds.com/corp/about/factsheets.html>. [Website]

Mendelsohn, Daniel. "But Enough about Me." *New Yorker*, January 25, 2010. [Article in a newspaper or popular magazine]

Pollan, Michael. *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*. New York: Penguin, 2006. [Single author book]

Rieger, James. Introduction to *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus*, by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, xi–xxxvii. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1982. [Preface, foreword, introduction, or similar part of a book]

Stolberg, Sheryl Gay, and Robert Pear. "Wary Centrists Posing Challenge in Health Care Vote." *New York Times*, February 27, 2010. Accessed February 28, 2010. <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/28/us/politics/28health.html>. [Article in a newspaper or popular magazine]

Ward, Geoffrey C., and Ken Burns. *The War: An Intimate History, 1941–1945*. New York: Knopf, 2007. [Book with two authors]

Weinstein, Joshua I. "The Market in Plato's *Republic*." *Classical Philology* 104 (2009): 439–58. [Article in a print journal]