Goals and structure:
This course introduces graduate students to the cultural, political, social, and economic history of the Japanese archipelago from earliest times through the 16th century C.E. In addition to considering a variety of primary source materials in translation, it provides an overview of English-language secondary sources, emphasizing past, present, and future trends in North Atlantic scholarship and their relationship to Japanese-language historiography. The first two weeks are devoted to an introductory overview of the periods, major events, and central issues of the entirety of premodern history, but they also introduce important historiographical issues by juxtaposing a recent textbook with a pioneering survey. The remainder of the semester is more in-depth, working chronologically through the great span of time from the putative Old Stone Age to the 16th century C.E.; throughout, primary source readings texts are coordinated with selections from monographs, articles, and survey histories.

Prerequisites:
No prior knowledge of premodern Japanese history is required, and all course readings will be in English. However, some familiarity with Japan and East Asia is expected, and students should be prepared to read large amounts of specialized secondary literature.

Requirements:
1) Regular class attendance and participation in discussion, informed by solid preparation
2) Brief presentations several times a semester
3) One 15-20 page paper, in the form of a detailed proposal for a large research project on an aspect of premodern Japan, with an annotated bibliography

Textbooks:
• George Sansom. *Japan: A Short Cultural History* (Revised edition: Stanford, 1952; originally published 1931) (many library copies, recommended reading at Labyrinth; if possible avoid the exorbitant price of the in-print edition)
• Joan Piggott, ed. *Capital and Countryside in Japan, 300-1180: Japanese Historians Interpreted in English* (Cornell East Asia Series, 2006) (on reserve at Starr, on order at Labyrinth)

• *The Cambridge History of Japan (CHJ)*: Vols. 1 (Ancient Japan, 1993), 2 (Heian Japan, 1999), 3 (Medieval Japan, 1990) (on reserve at Starr and elsewhere)
• David Lu. *Japan, A Documentary History: The Dawn of History to the Late Tokugawa Period* (M.E. Sharpe, 1997) (on reserve at Starr and online as a Columbia Library ebook)
1) 16 January. Introduction

2) 23 Jan. Initial Survey 1

Sansom to the end of Chapter XI (“The Development of Chinese Institutions...”)
Totman pp. 1-113
Presentation A: 1) read intro to CHJ 1; 2) glance over chapters of same; 3) read Edwards, Borgen/Barnes, Batten, and Piggott reviews
Presentation B: 1) read intro to CHJ 2; 2) glance over chapters of same; 3) read Borgen, Friday, and Farris reviews

3) 30 Jan. Initial Survey 2

Sansom to the end of Chapter XX (“Adzuchi and Momoyama”)  
Totman pp. 114-202
Presentation A: 1) read intro to CHJ 3; 2) glance over chapters of same; 3) read Beasley, Berry, Farris, and Steenstrup reviews

4) 6 Feb. Prehistory: Stone Age, Jōmon, Yayoi

Primary:
Peruse Ancient Japan (Richard Pearson [George Braziller, 1992]), pp. 34-185

Secondary:
Imamura Keiji, Prehistoric Japan: New Perspectives on Insular East Asia (Hawai’i, 1996), 53-125
Painting A: Koji Mizoguchi, An Archaeological History of Japan: 30,000 B.C. to A.D. 700 (U. Penn., 2002)

5) 13 Feb. Yayoi and Kofun

Primary:
Inscriptions discussed in Christopher Seeley, A History of Writing in Japan (E.J. Brill, 1991), pp. 9-25

Secondary:
Piggott, pp. 13-101 (“Early State Formation in Japan,” “Treatise on Duplicate Mirrors,” “Suruga and Tôtômi in the Kofun Age”)
Wayne Farris, Sacred Texts and Buried Treasures: Issues in the Historical...
Archaeology of Ancient Japan (Hawai’i, 1998), chap. 1 (pp. 9-54)
Joan Piggott, The Emergence of Japanese Kingship (Stanford, 1997), chap. 1 (pp. 15-43)

Presentation A: Gina Barnes, State Formation in Japan: Emergence of a 4th-Century Ruling Elite (Routledge, 2007)
Presentation B: Farris, Sacred Texts and Buried Treasures, chap. 2 (pp. 55-122)

6) 20 Feb. Asuka/Hakuho
Primary:
   SKIM Nihon shoki books 28 and 29 (W. G. Aston, Nihongi: Chronicles of Japan from the Earliest Times to A.D. 697 [orig. published 1896]), pp. 301-381
   Hitomaro’s elegy for Prince Takechi, Man’yōshū II:199-202 (Edwin Cranston, Gem-Glistening Cup [Stanford, 1993]), pp. 217-223
   Lu, pp. 37-39 and 47-49
Secondary:
   Bruce Batten, “Foreign Threat and Domestic Reform” Monumenta Nipponica 41:2 (1986), pp. 199-219

Presentation B: Zhenping Wang, Ambassadors From the Islands of Immortals: China-Japan Relations in the Han-Tang Period (Hawai’i, 2005)

7) 27 Feb. Nara
Primary:
   Lu, pp. 29-36, 49-50
   Sōniryō, translated in Joan Piggott, Tōdaiji and the Nara Imperium (Stanford PhD. Diss., 1987), pp. 267-274
Secondary:

Presentation A: John Augustine, Buddhist Hagiography in Early Japan: Images of Compassion in the Gyōki Tradition (Routledge, 2005)
Presentation B: Yoko Williams, Tsumi: Offence and Retribution in Early Japan (Routledge, 2003)

8) 6 Mar. Heian
Primary:
   The Owari Province Petition of 988 (excerpted)
   Documents connected to the Tōdaiji shōen in Minase, from Kan’ichi Asakawa, Land and Society in Medieval Japan (Japan Society for the Promotion of Science,
1965), pp. 115-121
Lu, pp. 53-79, 86-101

Secondary:
Piggott, pp. 209-279 (“Toward Regency Leadership at Court,” “The Court-Centered Polity,” “Kyoto and the Estate System in the Heian Period”)  

Presentation A: Bruce Batten, To the Ends of Japan: Premodern Frontiers, Boundaries, and Interactions (Hawai’i, 2003)
Presentation B: Charlotte von Verschuer, Across the Perilous Sea: Japanese Trade with China and Korea from the Seventh to the Sixteenth Centuries (Cornell East Asia Program, 2006)

[SPRING BREAK: No class on 13 March]

9) 20 March. Kamakura
Primary:
Lu, pp. 103-116
SKIM passages from the Azuma kagami: Minoru Shinoda, The Founding of the Kamakura Shogunate, 1180-1185: With Selected Translations from the Azuma Kagami (Columbia, 1960): pp. 149-364
SKIM documents collected in Jeffrey Mass, The Kamakura Bakufu: A Study in Documents (Stanford, 1976)

Secondary:
Piggott, pp. 280-401 (“The Mino Genji in the Late Classical Age,” “Kôfukuji in the Late Heian Period,” “Japan’s Medieval World,” “East and West in the Late Classical Age”)
Souyri, pp. 1-100
Presentation A: Jeffrey Mass, Yoritomo and the Founding of the First Bakufu: The Origins of Dual Government in Japan (Stanford, 1999)
Presentation B: Karl Friday, Samurai, Warfare, and the State in Early Japan (Routledge, 2004)

10) 27 March. The 'Medieval' World
Primary:
Lu, chap. 5 (pp. 117-145)
Secondary:
Souyri, pp. 101-141
Readings from Amino Yoshihiko, Rethinking Japanese History (trans. Alan Christy, forthcoming from University of Michigan Center for Japanese Studies)
Ryuichi Abé, The Weaving of Mantra: Kûkai and the Construction of Esoteric Buddhist Discourse (Columbia, 1999), pp. 399-428
Thomas Keirstead, “Inventing Medieval Japan: The History and Politics of National


11) 3 April. Muromachi

**Primary:**

*Lu*, chap. 6 (pp. 147-170)

**Secondary:**

*Souyri*, pp. 142-180


**Presentation A:** Wayne Farris, *Japan’s Medieval Population: Famine, Fertility and Warfare in a Transformative Age* (Hawai‘i, 2006)

**Presentation B:** Donald Keene, *Yoshimasa and the Silver Pavilion: The Creation of the Soul of Japan* (Columbia, 2003)

12) 10 April. Warring States

**Primary:**

*Lu*, chap. 7 (pp. 174-201)


**Secondary:**

*Souyri*, pp. 181-217


**Presentation A:** Lee Butler, *Emperor and Aristocracy in Japan, 1467-1680: Resilience and Renewal* (Harvard, 2002)

**Presentation B:** Suzanne Gay, *The Moneylenders of Late Medieval Kyoto* (Hawai‘i, 2001)

*[NO CLASS on 17 April]*

**REQUIRED:** research project summary posted to Courseworks by 10 AM on Weds. 18 April**

13) 24 April. Discussion of student research projects
Final papers will be due on Friday, May 4th
Fundamental English-language References

• The *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan* (9 vols., 1983)
  Despite its age, the original EOJ remains the most complete and reliable English-language reference work. The more colorful and compact 1993 2-volume *Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*, based on the 1983 work, is far less comprehensive, but its recent electronic incarnation is convenient: www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/3237602.html

• A *Student Guide to Japanese Sources in the Humanities* (Yasuko Makino and Masaei Saito, 1994)
  Aging and elementary sources, but they remain useful for finding essential reference works and orienting yourself within the field.

• Chinese History: A Manual (Endymion Wilkinson, revised 2000)
  The Webb book is very dated, but its discussions of premodern nomenclature, chronology, and weights and measures remain useful, and there is a valuable chapter on historical sources. Wilkinson is a magnificent reference for Chinese precedents and comparisons: buy a copy!

• Japanese History and Culture from Ancient to Modern Times: Seven Basic Bibliographies (John Dower and Timothy George, 1995 2nd edition)
  Bibliography 1, "Ancient and Medieval Japan from Earliest Times through the 16th Century," is helpful, but it has many omissions and includes material of dubious worth. Use in conjunction with the AAS bibliography, J-STOR, the bibliography in Totman (**2nd edition**), and the flawed but extensive bibliographies in the CHJ volumes. Also see Peter Kornicki’s on-line bibliography at: www.oriental.cam.ac.uk/jbib/bibtitle.html and the *Acta Asiatica* table of contents at www.tohogakkai.com/acta.htm

• Association for Asian Studies online Bibliography of Asian Studies (www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/2133481.html)
  Essential, but requires care in phrasing and constraining searches.

• JSTOR (www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/1959655.html)
  Searchable collection of the entire contents, from inception to about 5 years ago, of journals including the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, Journal of Asian Studies, Journal of Japanese Studies, and Monumenta Nipponica. **Bear in mind that searches of journals in JSTOR categories other than Asian Studies, such as History, Language and Literature, or Archaeology, also turn up important materials.** Also check Project Muse for journals like positions and recent numbers of Monumenta, the JJS, etc.: www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/databases/1955291.html

• PMJS (Premodern Japan Studies listserve) logs and other resources (www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~pmjs/)
• H-JAPAN (Japanese History listserve) logs (www2.h-net.msu.edu/~japan/)
  Both searchable, these provide useful entry points into the primary electronic communities for premodern Japanese studies in English. In addition to perusing archived discussions, students are encouraged to join one or both of these lists.
Supplementary Readings

An unsystematic collection from the previous version of this class, in rough chronological order.


*Multicultural Japan: Paleolithic to Postmodern* (ed. Donald Denoon et. al [Cambridge University, 1996])


Wayne Farris, *Population, Disease and Land in Early Japan, 645-900* (Harvard, 1985)


G. Cameron Hurst, *Insei: Abdicated Sovereigns in the Politics of Late Heian Japan, 1086-1185* (Columbia, 1976)


*Court and Bakufu in Japan: Essays in Kamakura History* (Stanford, 1982)


Thomas Conlan, *In little need of divine intervention: Takezaki Suenaga's scrolls of the Mongol invasions of Japan* (Cornell, 2001)


Janet Goodwin, *Alms and Vagabonds: Buddhist Temples and Popular Patronage in Medieval Japan* (Hawai‘i, 1994)


Mary Elizabeth Berry, *The Culture of Civil War in Kyoto* (California, 1994)

Warlords, Artists, and Commoners: Japan in the Sixteenth Century, ed. George Elison and Bardwell Smith (Hawai‘i, 1981)

Michael Cooper, *They Came to Japan: An Anthology of European Reports on Japan, 1543-1640* (California, 1965)