HISTORY OF MODERN JAPAN, POLITICS, AND CULTURE

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course: History (HI) 44420 - Chaminade University
This course is cross-listed as Political Science (POL) 44420

Instructor: E. T. Teixeira, 733-4301, Ext. 542 (W); 598-5601 (Pgr) After 6
PM; email (W): eteixeira@pdc.org or (H) eteix8@hgea.org

Term: Winter - January 10 through March 22, 2000

Class: Every Thursday, 1730 to 2140 Hrs., Kaneohe MCBH

Text: Morton, W. Scott, Japan: Its History and Culture, Third Edition,
McGraw-Hill Inc., 1994

Johnson, Chalmers, Japan: Who Governs? The Rise of the
Developmental State, W. W. Norton & Co., 1995

Course Overview: This course examines those major events and issues in Japan's
modern history that shaped its politics, culture, and industrialization. It makes
comparisons and describes linkages, historically and culturally, between Japan, its Asian
neighbors, and the Western powers. It addresses Japan's conflicts in its modern history
and surveys its unprecedented economic development and impact on the global
community. More than a chronology of Japan's history, the course explores certain
customs, perspectives, and institutions which persist up through the last decade of the
Twentieth Century.

Objectives: Interpret contemporary Japanese national developments with
reference to past traditions.

Understand the historical significance of the Meiji Restoration.

Understand the causes for Japan's post WWII economic
development.

Appreciate the diversity of Japan and its Asian neighbors, their
interrelationships and interactions with the West.

Learn from each other by sharing perspectives and experiences.

Develop skills in analysis and communications.

Learning Methodology:

Classes will meet as outlined for lectures and student presentations. The class will be run like a seminar with emphasis on active student participation. Lectures will supplement and expand upon the text material but not necessarily repeat it. Lectures may include material from video libraries. Students are expected to make a short, current event presentation on a designated class meeting date and participate in an individual or collaborative learning project.

Current Event Presentation:

Current events as these pertain to Japan will be discussed in class. Individual presentations of articles from periodicals will be scheduled early in the course per a sign-up sheet. These presentations should not exceed 10 minutes and should demonstrate current Japanese affairs in Politics, Culture, Religion, Science and Technology, Business, Sports etc.

Research Project:

The research project provides an opportunity to explore in depth a personality or topic in a broad range of subjects pertinent to Japanese history, politics, or culture. Students may undertake an individual research project or elect to work on a group research project. Topics for research projects will be submitted in Session 3.

Research projects will be evaluated on the depth of the material covered and also on the excellence of the presentation itself. Students should show an understanding of the material and, where applicable, research should exceed information found in the text. Ideas for researching projects include the references cited in the text, library searches, interviews with experts in the field, and from personal or professional experiences related to the topic. Project outlines will be submitted no later than two weeks prior to the scheduled presentation dates.

Successful completion of the project will require planning, organizing, and good communications skills. The research paper should be typed in acceptable term paper format.

Evaluation: Final grades will be based upon a cumulative of 100 points--

- Class participation (20%)

- Current event presentation (5%).

- Research project including both a paper (< 5 pages) and presentation (25%).

- Mid Term examination (25%).

- Final examination (25%).

5% Bonus: Students may earn up to a 5 % bonus for additional work. Additional work may involve outside reading of an agreed upon book or viewing of a movie pertinent to Japan. A written review is required near the end of the course.

Office Hours: ·   By appointment before class is preferable.

Schedule: **January 13.** Course overview. Focus, administrative notes, student requirements. Issues in Contemporary Japan. Patterns in Japanese History: Who governs Japan? (Next week: scan Morton, Chap. 1 - 4, 8, 9; read Morton Chaps. 5, 6, 7, 10; read Johnson Chaps. 3, 4). Students may sign up for a current event presentation date.

               January 20. Current events. Kamakura Period, 12th Century up to the Tokugawa Shogunate, 17th Century. (Next week: read Morton Chaps. 11, 12). Students sign up for a current event presentation date.

               January 27. Current events. The Tokugawa Shogunate: politics, policies, and problems. **Students submit research project topics.** (Next week: read Morton Chap. 13). Student research project topics due.

               February 3. Current events. The Meiji Restoration: causes and effect; forces for change; the rapid transition to modernization; rise of the bureaucracy. **Mid Term Exam (Take Home).** (Next week: read Morton Chap. 14).

               February 10. Current events. Militarism and its consequences. Student presentations. **Mid Term Exam Due.** (Next week: read Morton Chap. 15).

               February 17. Current events. *Ante Bellum and Te Bello.* Contemporary Japanese customs. Student presentations. (Next week: read Morton Chap. 16; read Johnson Chaps. 5, 6).

               February 24. Current events. Post war recovery. Bureaucracy redefined. Student presentations. (Next week: read Morton Chap. 17; read Johnson Chaps. 7, 8).

               March 2. Current events. Japan's economic development and the role of the bureaucracy. Student presentations. (Next week: read Morton Chap. 18; read Johnson Chaps. 9, 10).

               March 9. Contemporary trends in Japan. Who governs Japan? Student presentations. (Next week: read Morton Chap. 18; read Johnson Chaps. 13, 14).

               March 16. Final Exam. Student presentations. Research projects due.

Note: Exams will be based on readings, lectures, hand-outs, and videos shown in class.