

Prepared by the Department of Social Sciences
Date of Departmental Approval: November 2, 2015
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Effective: Fall 2016

1. Course Number: HIS216
Course Title: History of Japan

2. Description: The course is an historical study of Japan's history and culture from ancient times to the present. Students will examine the historical, economic, and social factors that developed Japanese civilization. The remarkable transformation of Japan from a feudal society led by an aristocratic class of samurai to a modern republic similar to modern 19th century Western nations will be closely analyzed. The course will also include close scrutiny of the events pushing Japan into WW II as well as Japan's dynamic post- WW II recovery, to include a significant economic boom. The course will provide a foundation for the continued study of Japan as well as a broad range of Asian topics.

3. Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students are able to do the following:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the geography topography, and climate of Japan.
- Explain the origins of the Japanese people.
- Describe the culture and values of Japanese society as it evolved from ancient times to modern Japanese society.
- Analyze the development of Japanese nationalism.
- Analyze the significance of global economic events and policies in the internal affairs of Japan.
- Use critical thinking skills to relate events in Japan's past to current world affairs.
- Use written communication skills to make coherent, evidence-based arguments and interpretations.
- Articulate ideas and responses to readings in class discussions and examinations.
- Access and use online college support systems, such as online advising, tutoring, campus web and the learning management system.
- Evaluate primary and secondary sources to understand Japan's history.

4. Credits: 3 credits

5. Satisfies General Education Requirement: Behavioral and Social Science

6. Prerequisite: ENL101 (English Composition I) and a 100-level history course

7. Semester(s) Offered: Varies

8. Suggested General Guidelines for Evaluation: Grades are based upon exams, written work, scholarly research, and class participation.

9. General Topical Outline (Optional):

- Origin of the Japanese People
- Heian Japan
- Rise of the Samurai Warrior
- Mongol Invasion and Kamakura Decline
- Japan's Medieval Culture
- Tokugawa Period
- Western Imperialism and Tokugawa Decline
- Meiji Restoration
- Modernization and the Rise of Japanese Imperialism
- Japan in WW II
- Aftermath of WW II
- The Economic Miracle Era
- Contemporary Japan
- Future of Japan