

# Northern Marianas College

## CURRICULUM ACTION REQUEST

Effective Semester / Session: Spring 2014

Type of Action:

- New
- Modification
- Move to Inactive (Stop Out)
- Cancellation

Course Alpha and Number: HI 235

Course Title: Introduction to Japanese History and Culture

Reason for initiating, revising, or canceling:

Today, Japan wields one sixth of the world's economic power. It is the third's biggest economy. It is the second largest trading partner of the United States. Thus, an understanding of Japan is critical for our students who reside in the neighborhood of this great nation. Furthermore, Japan's rapid and incredible rise from a feudal society ruled by samurai and shoguns to a modern democratic state and economic power offers insights and lessons that must be pondered by serious student, economists and historians if this miracle is to be fully comprehended. Moreover, Japan's history has been significantly tied up with Northern Marianas Islands in the recent past as well as today. This connectivity must be examined to gain greater understanding of the impact of Japan on the peoples and cultures of the CNMI as well as other global nation-states and citizens. Yet, to truly understand the great people and nation of Japan, it is essential to gain a deeper knowledge not only of the forces of historical events but also to grasp and acquire an appreciation of Japanese people and their culture.

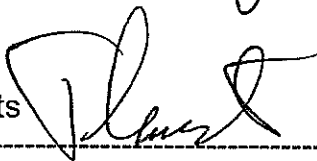
Barry Wicksman

 12/10/13

Proposer

Date

Thomas Sharts

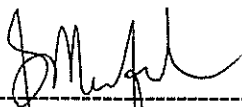


12/10/13

Department Chair

Date

Barbara Merfalen



10 Dec 2013

Dean of Academic Programs and Services

Date

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## Course Guide

Course: HI 236 Introduction to Japanese History and Culture

1. **Department:** Social Sciences and Fine Arts

2. **Purpose:**

HI 236 provides an overview of Japanese history and culture from prehistoric to modern times. The primary goal is to provide students with an understanding of contemporary Japan by tracing and analyzing its historical, political and cultural developments. Topics covered include Origin myths, Chinese influence, Heian Japan, Rise of the samurai, Meiji Restoration and ,Post War Japan .Japan as a major global player is also examined as well as Japan and the CNMI connection. Emphasis is also placed on how to read and interpret primary and secondary sources to acquire historical understanding.

3. **Description**

### **Required/Recommended Textbook(s) and Related Materials**

Required:

Henshall, Kenneth. A History of Japan: From Stone Age to Superpower, Palgrave Macmillan; 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. ( Readability Level 11.6).

**Recommended:**

Keene, Donald. Chushingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers, Columbia University Press.

Schirokauer ,Conrad. A Brief History of Japanese Civilization. Wadsworth Publishing.

A. **Contact Hours**

1. **Lecture:** 3 hours per week /45 per semester
2. **Lab:**
3. **Other:**

B. **Credits**

1. **Number:** 3
2. **Type:** Regular degree credits

C. **Catalogue Course Description**

This course offers an overview of Japanese History and culture in its global context from prehistoric times up modern times. The emphasis is placed on those factors that gave Japan its unique identity and the political ,social, and cultural forces that transformed it into a major economic power and global player today.

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### D. Degree or Certificate Requirements Met by Course

This course fulfills the Social Sciences – History General Education Requirement for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts, and the Social Sciences General Education Requirement for the A.S. degree in Natural Resource Management. This course is also an elective course for the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts. Prerequisites: None. English Placement Levels: EN 093/094. Math Placement Level: None. (Offered Spring)

### E. Course Activities and Design

This course incorporates lectures, small-group discussions, guest speakers, a visit to the CNMI Museum of History and Culture, island field trips, audiovisual presentations, take-home assignments, periodic quizzes, and a final exam.

### 4. Course Prerequisite(s); Concurrent Course Enrollment; Required English/Mathematics Placement Level(s)

Prerequisites: None

English Placement Level: EN 093/094

Math Placement Level: None

### 5. Estimated Cost of Course; Instructional Resources Needed

Cost to the Student: Tuition for a 3 credit course and student activities fee.

Cost to the College: Instructor's salary.

Instructional resources needed for this course include chalk and chalkboard, TV/VCR and videotaped programs, and library books and periodicals to be identified by the instructor.

### 6. Method of Evaluation

Student grades will be based on the regular letter grade system as described below:

A: Excellent – grade points: 4.0;

B: Above average – grade points: 3.0;

C: Average – grade points: 2.0;

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D: Below average – grade points: 1.0;  
F: Failure – grade points: 0.0.

NMC's letter grading and attendance policies will be followed.

### 7. Course Outline

This is a topical outline and does not necessarily indicate the sequence in which the material will be presented.

- 1.0 Japan Historiography
  - 1.1 The goals and methods of History
  - 1.2 The tools of prehistory and history
  - 1.3 Differences between primary and secondary sources
  - 1.4 The main contributors to understanding Japanese prehistory and history.
  
- 2.0 Geography
  - 2.1 Geography and history
  - 2.2 Geography of Japan
  - 2.3 Economic political and social based on geography
  
- 3.0 Origins and Early State Building in Nara Period (712-793)
  - 3.1 Kojiki
  - 3.2 Prince Shotoku's 17 Article Constitution
  - 3.3 Cultural borrowing from China
  - 3.4 Nara Buddhism
  - 3.5 Japanese court poetry and music
  
- 4.0 Heian Period (794-1185)
  - 4.1 The rise of the Heian Period
  - 4.2 Heian aesthetics and the art of the novel.
  - 4.3 The fall of the court
  
- 5.0 Kamakura Period (1185-1333)
  - 5.1 The rise of the samurai
  - 5.2 Buddhism as the soul of medieval Japan
  - 5.3 Cultural developments: No Theatre, Kyogen plays, Hojoki  
The Tale of Heike.
  
- 6.0 Muromachi Period 1333-1568)

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- 6.1 Waring states
- 6.2 Foreign contacts
- 6.3 Economic developments
- 6.4 Christianity
  
- 7.0 The Edo Period ( 1600- 1868)
  - 7.1 The Tokugawa system
  - 7.2 Bushido and the samurai
  - 7.3 Encounters with the west
  - 7.4 The last samurai
  
- 8.0 Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)
  - 8.1 Economic, political and social changes
  - 8.2 Establishment of Modern State/ Meiji Constitution
  - 8.3 Foreign policy and war.
  
- 9.0 The Coming of War
  - 9.1 The crisis of the 1930s
  - 9.2 The road to Pearl Harbor
  - 9.3 Occupation and rule of Marianas Islands
  
- 10.0 War Experience
  - 10.1 Effects on Japan
  - 10.2 Effects on Marianas Islanders
  - 10.3 Dropping of the Atomic Bomb.
  
- 11.0 Post War Japanese Society
  - 11.1 Economic, political ,social changes
  - 11.2 Effects of cold war and Korean war
  - 11.3 Japan as a global economic player
  - 11.4 Modern society and culture of Japan
  - 11.5 Major economic, political, environmental  
demographic and cultural problems
  - 11.6 The significance of Modern Japan to the CNMI.

### 8. Instructional Goals

This course will introduce students to:

- 1.0 The methods of determining and understanding prehistory and history;

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- 2.0 The characteristics and significance of physical geography of Japan;
- 3.0 Origins and state building during the Nara Period;
- 4.0 The significance of cultural borrowing from China;
- 5.0 The major political and cultural developments during the Heian Period;
- 6.0 The major political and cultural developments during the Kamakura Period ;
- 7.0 The major Political and economic developments during the Muromachi Period ;
- 8.0 The major political and cultural developments during the Edo Period;
- 9.0 The major political, economic, cultural changes during the Meiji Restoration;
- 10.0 The economic and political forces leading to Pearl Harbor;
- 11.0 The effects of WW II on Japan and the Marianas Islanders;
- 12.0 The economic, political, and social changes in post war Japan;
- 13.0 Japan's place in the 21<sup>st</sup> century as a major global player, and
- 14.0 The connectivity between Japan and the CNMI in an historical and economic context.

### 9. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1.0 Demonstrate an understanding of the methods and limitations of resources used to study prehistory and history;
- 2.0 Identify the location of Japan and describe its physical geography ;
- 3.0 Describe Japan's mythological origins as depicted in the Kojiki;
- 4.0 Examine archeological evidence to reach conclusions regarding

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Japan's prehistory;

- 5.0 Describe the significant political, economic, and cultural developments during the Nara Period
- 6.0 Discuss the major political, economic, and cultural developments During the Heian Period;
- 7.0 Discuss the major political, economic and cultural developments During the Kamakura and Muromachi periods.
- 8.0 Describe the major political, economic, and cultural developments during the Edo Period;
- 8.0 Describe the major political, economic, and cultural changes during The Meiji restoration;
- 9.0 Analyze and discuss the events that lead Japan to war with China and United States and the allied nations;
- 10.0 Analyze and discuss the effects of WWII on Japan;
- 11.0 Describe and discuss economic, political social, changes In post war Japanese society;
- 12.0 Analyze the factors that propelled Japan to economic superpower status; and
- 13.0 Discuss and evaluate the significant role of Japan as a major global player in the world today.

### 10. Assessment Measures

Assessment of student learning may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1.0 Periodic quizzes;
- 2.0 Participation in class discussions;
- 3.0 Field trip reports;

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- 4.0 Reaction papers;
- 5.0 Group work on special projects/assignments; and
- 6.0 A final exam.