

# JPNS 150H, Japanese Culture and Civilization

## Fall 2019

**Professor:** Brian Dowdle

([brian.dowdle@mso.umt.edu](mailto:brian.dowdle@mso.umt.edu)).

Office: LA 326, Office Tel: 406-243-5480

Office Hours: Monday and Friday 12:00-1:00, Wednesday 1:00-2:00, and, by appointment.

### Course Description

*JPNS150H (Japanese Culture and Civilization)* provides an overview of the entire sweep of Japanese history and culture from the earliest inhabitants of the Japanese archipelago, c. 35,000 BCE, to the recent earthquake and tsunami of March 2011 and beyond. The course introduces important events and individuals, recurring themes and prominent literary and artistic works. Particular attention will be paid to the interconnections between religious, economic, environmental, social, political and literary aspects of Japanese history and culture. No previous knowledge of Japan or the Japanese language is required; the course will be taught entirely in English and all required readings will be provided in English translation.

JPNS150H fulfills the Gen. Ed requirements for **Group X: Indigenous and Global Perspectives (X)** and **Group VI: Historical and Cultural Studies (H)**. This is also a required course for all students intending to major in Japanese.

### Learning Objectives

This course aims to

- Improve cultural literacy about Japan and the Japanese
- Increase familiarity with the principal periods, including Jōmon, Yayoi, Nara, Heian, Kamakura, Ashikaga, Warring States, Edo, Meiji, Taishō, Shōwa, and Heisei periods
- Introduce basic geography – location of principal Asian countries, Japanese islands, and Japanese cities
- Identify important political, social, cultural, artistic, and literary themes for each of the principal periods covered

### Required Text

A Brief History of Japanese Civilization **FOURTH EDITION**

(Conrad Schirokauer et al., Cengage Learning, 2013)

(referred to throughout as “**BHJC**”)

Available from the UM bookstore. Purchase of this text is **REQUIRED**; it will be used every week, and not having access to a copy will cause severe problems throughout the course. **IMPORTANT NOTE: Make sure to buy the FOURTH EDITION; previous and subsequent editions are NOT interchangeable, as they have different page numbers and slightly different material.**

**ALL OTHER TEXTS AND READINGS WILL BE POSTED AS PDFS TO THE MOODLE COURSE SITE. YOU SHOULD PRINT OUT AND BRING COPIES OF THESE READINGS TO DISCUSSION SECTION EACH WEEK.**

### **Course Structure**

Classroom activity consists of two main methods of instruction, lectures and discussion section. Usually (though not always – make sure to check the schedule) the first two sessions of a given week will be lectures, with the third given over for discussion section, where students can address the issues raised in each week’s primary texts and lectures in more depth, and also ask questions of their own.

Students should read the assigned sections from the textbook, *BHJC*, at the start of each week so as to have a better understanding of the topics covered in lectures. It is recommended that students also read the primary sources assigned for each week at the earliest possible opportunity—i.e. before class. Each week there will be a series of reading guides. There should be completed and brought to class on the date the reading is due. They will be turned in and can be used to help you answer questions.

### **Assessment and Grading:**

Participation: attendance, discussions, and Reading Guides	35%
Midterm exam:	15%
Final Exam (comprehensive):	25%
Written Assignments 1 & 2 (research exercises):	10% (combined score)
Written Assignment 3 (term paper):	15%

### **Grade Distribution**

A: 93-100 A-: 90-92 B+: 87-89 B: 83-86 B-: 80-82 C+: 77-79 C: 73-76 C-: 70-72 D+: 67-69  
D: 63-66 D-: 60-62 F: below 60

### **Absence Policy**

Attendance at all scheduled sessions of the course is **MANDATORY**; the two halves of the class, the lectures and discussion section, are intended to work in concert, and skipping one or other will have a negative effect on student’s performance in the course.

### **Participation, Reading Guides, and Attendance**

Your grade for participation, reading guides, and attendance will depend on three elements; regular attendance at all scheduled class sessions, your contributions to in-class discussion, and the quality of your guides. You should write all responses in appropriate academic style, as if you were writing a formal paper, and your responses should show evidence of engagement with each week's assigned reading material, as well as with the set of study questions posted at the beginning of each week.

### **Written Assignments**

In addition to weekly reading guides, please note the following written assignments:

**Assignment 1** - Research Exercise and Archive Exercise, Part I. Each student should pick a topic from the textbook, reading guides, or term sheets relating to the material that has been or will be covered in class and locate six secondary academic sources (books and articles) on this topic. This exercise consists of two parts; first, listing the sources found (**Wikipedia** and other popular sources, especially web-based ones, are ***NOT*** acceptable), and 2) describe how you found them, and assess their reliability, as well as how you might use them in a possible paper.

**Assignment 2** – Research Exercise, Part II. Complete a preliminary outline of a 5-page paper on your chosen topic. This should include a thesis statement, a select bibliography and a structural outline of the paper. Changes in topic are possible between Assignments 1 and 2, but students must have instructor approval before doing so.

**Assignment 3** – Term Paper. Based on the preceding assignments, students should complete a 5-7 page paper on their chosen topic.

### **Academic Honesty**

All students are required to abide by the rules of academic honesty as outlined in the U of M Student Conduct code. The relevant portions of the code can be read at <http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/documents/Ed.StudentConductCodeUPDATED2012.pdf>. It is the responsibility of the individual student to read, understand, and follow the appropriate sections.

### **Disabilities**

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work with you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification. < <https://www.umt.edu/dss/default.php>>