

Proseminar in Japanese History

History 187R
UCSB Fall 2018
T Th 12:30-1:45
Ellison 2816

Prof. Luke S. Roberts
HSSB 4228
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Office hrs: T 10-11, Th 2-3

*Hello
Kitty
Zombie
Samurai
Thug*



Course description and objectives

We will be researching and discussing topics in Japanese history. You will pick a research topic yourself; locate and read a number of primary sources, books and articles on your topic; make weekly or bi-weekly presentations to the class about your readings; and write a 15-20 page paper for comment and class discussion. You may pick any topic from ancient to modern Japanese history in consultation with me, considering the appropriateness of the topic in terms of Japanese history and the availability of a sufficient number documents in a language that you can read. For the purposes of this class, translated documents--say from Japanese into English--are fine to use as primary documents. The possible topics are endless. Just pick something that you would really like to know about, and about which sufficient sources can be found in a language that you can read. I am a specialist on Japan from 1550-1900. My particular subject strengths of knowledge are the following: samurai, Tokugawa era economy society and culture, nationalism, and I can help you best with these subjects but the main thing is for you to research a topic, ancient or recent, that interests you greatly. Mainly, I will be teaching you all how to do research and how to write a history paper. The only textbook for this class is Rampolla's guide to history writing (see below). We will be discussing this text in class on a number of occasions so bring it with you to each class.

Many of you may not be well prepared in Japanese history. That is fine. By the time you are done with this class you will be knowledgeable about the history that surrounds your particular topic, and also know much you learn from other student's research projects. If you want a textbook reading for reference let me know and I will suggest some things appropriate to your time.

Your presence and full participation in presentation and mutual evaluation of work is essential. Each absence will cause a 7% deduction from the Attendance, participation and presentations grade (this is equivalent to a 2% deduction from the whole grade). Six absences means course failure. If you are having personal difficulties please contact me as soon as you can. I know life can be tough and I am accommodating concerning such issues. I have open office hours with Japanese tea and crackers, and like hearing about where you come from and your lives in addition to discussing coursework.

Requirements and Grading

Attendance, participation and presentations 30%; Drafts 30%; Final 15-20 page paper 40%.

Required texts

Mary Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, any ed. 6th-9th. (Bedford St. Martins, 2009-2017).

Weekly Readings and Class Plan

Week 1

Th Sept 27 Introduction of course, Discussion of possible topics

Week 2

T Oct 2 Introduction to research methods and strategies, more discussion of topics.
Th Oct 4 5 min Presentation of research topics and bibliography

THIS WEEK: Mandatory office visit with professor to discuss project, initial Sign up on Sept 27.

Week 3

T Oct 9 10 min Presentations of sources and secondary readings (6 students)
Th Oct 11 10 min Presentations of sources and secondary readings (6 students)

Week 4

T Oct 16 10 min Presentations of sources and secondary readings (6 students)
Th Oct 18 Workshopping primary sources

Week 5

T Oct 23 10 min Presentations of portion of your paper (6 students)
Th Oct 25 10 min Presentations of portion of your paper (6 students)

Week 6

T Oct 30 10 min Presentations of portion of your paper (6 students)
Th Nov 1 Mutual writing critique exercise

Week 7

T Nov 6 10 min Presentations of portion of your paper (6 students)
Th Nov 8 10 min Presentations of portion of your paper (6 students)

Week 8

T Nov 13 10 min Presentations of portion of your paper (6 students)
Th Nov 15 Mutual writing critique exercise

Week 9

T Nov 20 Writing critique exercise
Th Nov 22 **Thanksgiving Holiday, no class**

Week 10

T Nov 27 Turn in complete rough draft of paper (2 copies), mutual critique exercise
Th Nov 29 Presentations of Project (7 students)

Week 11

T Dec 4 Presentations of Project (7 students) (I return corrected complete rough drafts to you)
Th Dec 6 Presentations of Project (4 students) and general process group evaluation

Final Papers due in my office by Monday Dec. 10, 5:00 PM