

Samurai Japan 1100-1880

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| Hist 187S | Prof. Luke S. Roberts |
| UCSB Spring 2017 | 4228 HSSB |
| T Th 3:30-4:45 | lukerobt@history.ucsb.edu |
| Embarcadero Hall | Office hours: T 11-12, Th 9:00-11:00 and by appointment |

Course description and objectives

In this class we will survey the shifting ideals and diverse realities of samurai as they changed throughout history, exploring samurai from the perspectives of status, social and military activity, samurai politics, gender, values and identity. Samurai are the class of elite warriors in Japan who existed from the tenth century until the mid-1870's when their status was abolished. Over this time their roles, livelihoods and ideals changed in profound ways. A samurai of the year 1200 would not have recognized a samurai of 1700 as having the same dress, weapons and armor, sources of income, personal and professional values or daily lifestyle. Their ideas of honorable behavior would have been very different. The samurai era of political power began with the Kamakura era (1192-1333) when they shared rule over much of Japan with the Kyoto aristocracy and Buddhist temples. The next era was the Ashikaga era (1336-1573) during which time the authority of aristocrats and the old temples significantly declined. The samurai emerged dominant but usually at war amongst themselves. This is the most typically "samurai" era in modern imagination; including the Era of Warring States (1467-1590) and Unification Period (1568-1615) which are the setting for many modern samurai movies. The third and last of the samurai political regimes was the Tokugawa era (1600-1867), when (excepting the beginning and the end of the period) there was no war with foreigners or between samurai lords in Japan. During this time samurai retained military ideals but became bureaucrats and just-in-case warriors with plenty of time on their hands.

Each of the new eras had its own set of samurai ideals, but in each of the eras the ideals of the day had about as much relation to actual samurai behavior as the 65MPH speed limit signs on our California highways tell you how fast people are driving. There are many popular images of samurai that are mythic and based on exceptional cases or not based in any reality at all. These myths--pretending ideals are actual behavior--are both ancient and modern. One of the aims of this class is to distinguish between myth and reality, understand the relationship between ideals and behavior, and to help you learn how to evaluate information and historical sources for what they can tell you. Many of the readings and some of the lectures will focus on the experiences of individual samurai so you can see how they lived their lives, and understand samurai through experiences rather than prescriptions and ideals.

Requirements and Grading

Midterm 30%; Final exam 35%; Maps, timeline and small assignments 35%.

Late Assignment Policy: All assignments will be deducted 10 points per day late down to -50 points. An assignment turned in after class time is considered one day late. The next day is also considered one day late and each day ends at 5:00 PM. Cannot turn in on Saturday or Sunday but each of these days counts 10 points off. All late assignments must be turned in as paper copy to me directly or slid under my office door at HSSB 4228 M-F by 5:00 PM.

Required texts (two copies each of Conlan and Ikegami on 2 hr reserve in library)

Thomas Conlan, *In Little Need of Divine Intervention* (Cornell U. East Asian Program, 2002).

Eiko Ikegami, *The Taming of the Samurai* (Harvard, 1995).

Selected articles and documents posted on the Gauchospace class page.

Weekly Readings and Class Plan

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| <u>Week 1</u> | Beginnings to 1200 |
| T April 4 | Origins of Samurai (clip from "Shin Heike Monogatari") |
| Th April 6 | Genpei Wars and Kamakura origins |

Readings: **Gauchospace:** Bito Masahide and Watanabe Akio, "A Chronological Outline of Japanese History", pp. 1-17, 26-27 (this is a simple reference for those of you who know no Japanese history. If you have never had Japanese history before or want to refresh on the basic outline please read this). Yonekura Isamu, "The Origin of the Samurai: How Samurai Were Born," *The East*, Vol. 11 no. 4 (May 1975), pp. 18-29.

*Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 47-77.

Here is a 9 minute youtube video that presents the history of *yabusame*, mounted archery. It's interpretation is a bit precious, but it is still a good intro. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di8c7FZJgUA&feature=related>

Week 2

Kamakura 1192-1333

T April 11

Kamakura Government and society

FIRST MAP DUE (5%)

Th April 13

Samurai Warfare: The Mongol Invasions

Readings:

Gauchospace: Hitomi Tonomura, "Sexual Violence Against Women: Legal and Extralegal Treatment in Premodern Warrior Societies," pp. 135-152 in Hitomi Tonomura, Anne Walthall and Wakita Haruko eds. Women and Class in Japanese History (Center for Japanese Studies, U. Michigan, 1999).

*Thomas Conlan, *In Little Need of Divine Intervention*. pp. 1-200, 254-275,

view the interactive map at <http://learn.bowdoin.edu/asian-studies/mongol-invasions/>

view the scroll at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/mongol-scrolls/>

Assignment for April 18 write two pages on this week's reading: In first paragraph identify Conlan's main argument (pp. 254-275) concerning the Mongol Invasions and note a couple points of his evidence and/or reasoning. Then pick two brief selections of the Takezaki scroll text (pp. 23-200) that help you understand samurai warfare better and explain what they help you understand and why.

Week 3

Kamakura end and Muromachi 1336-1567

T April 18

Class discussion of Takezaki Suenaga text

TWO PAGER DUE (10%)

Th April 20

Muromachi period up to Onin war

Readings:

Gauchospace: Thomas Conlan, "The Nature of Warfare in Fourteenth Century Japan: The Record of Nomoto Tomoyuki," *Journal of Japanese Studies* Vol. 25, No. 2 (Summer 1999) pp. 299-330.

*Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 78-134

Here is an 8 minute youtube video that presents a brief history and description of samurai armor. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUWmaLnMIXE>

Week 4

Warring States Era 1467-1590

T April 25

Daimyo realms and castle towns overview

Th April 27

Hojo clan and domain

Readings:

Gauchospace: Thomas Conlan, "The Failed Attempt to Move the Emperor to Yamaguchi and the Fall of the Ōuchi," *Japanese Studies* (Sept. 2015), pp. 1-19.

Michael Birt, "Samurai in Passage: The Transformation of the Sixteenth Century Kanto," *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Summer, 1985), pp. 369-399.

*Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 135-148

Week 5

Unification Period 1568-1615

T May 2

Unification losers: The Chōsogabe clan and others

Th May 4

Unification: Nobunaga, Hideyoshi, Ieyasu

SECOND MAP DUE (5%)

Readings:

Gauchospace: Marius Jansen, "Tosa in the Sixteenth Century: The 100 Article Law Code of Chōsokabe Motochika" in John Hall and Marius Jansen eds. *Studies in the Institutional History of Early Modern Japan* (Princeton U. Press, 1968).

Basil Chamberlain transl., "A Short Memoir from the Seventeenth Century: Mistress An's Narrative." pp. 107-113 in *Early Japanology* (Asiatic Society of Japan, 1998).

*Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 151-194.

Week 6 **Edo Period Government, 1600-1868**T May 9 **MIDTERM EXAM (30%)**

Th May 11 Edo Government

Readings: **Gauchospace:** Harold Bolitho, "The Han," pp. 202-253 in Marius Jansen ed., *Warrior Rule in Japan* (Cambridge University Press, 1995). Constantine Vaporis, "Lordly Pageantry: The Daimyo Procession and Political Authority," *Japan Review* 17 (2005), pp. 3-54.
 *Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 197-222

Week 7 **Samurai in the Edo Period**

T May 16 Arms and Letters in a Peacetime World: Asahi Monzaemon and Mori Yoshiki

Th May 18 The Ako Incident **TWO PAGER DUE (10%)**

Readings: **Gauchospace:** Hiroaki Sato, "The Forty-Seven Samurai: An Eyewitness Account, with Arguments," pp. 304-338 from his *Legends of the Samurai* (Woodstock NY: Overlook Press 1995). Luke Roberts, "Mori Yoshiki: Samurai Government Officer," pp. 25-42 in Anne Walthall ed., *The Human Tradition in Modern Japan* (Scholarly Resources, 2002).
 *Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 223-298.
Assignment for May 18: Answer the following questions base on the Ikegami and Sato readings: Identify some of the arguments among the 47 samurai over the choice to kill Kira Yoshinaka. In terms of their goals, why do they disagree? Then identify some of the arguments of outsiders judging their behavior and the punishment of the 47. Evaluate the comments on the good and bad of the retainers' behavior in terms of the goals and ideals of the commentators. What tensions exist in the ideals for samurai?

Week 8 **Samurai Romance and Families**

T May 23 Youthful Loves

Th May 26 Teshima Shō Murders Her Lover

Readings: **Gauchospace:** Ihara Saikaku (trans. Paul Gordon Schalow), *The Great Mirror of Male Love* (Stanford U. Press, 1990) , pp. 27-34 (portion of Schalow's introduction), 63-76 and endnotes; Yamakawa Kikue (Kate Nakai trans.), "The Days of a Housewife" pp. 15-23, and "Concubines, Abortion and Infanticide," pp. 169-174 in her *Women of the Mito Domain* (U. of Tokyo Press, 1992).
 *Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 299-328.

Week 9 **Things Fall Apart**

T May 30 Troubles in the Tokugawa world

Th June 1 From Perry to Collapse **TIMELINE DUE (5%)**

Readings: **Gauchospace:** Marius Jansen, "Takechi Zuizan and the Tosa Loyalist Party," *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 18, no. 2 (Feb. 1959), pp. 199-212. and one TBA.
 *Ikegami, *Taming*, pp. 329-378.

Week 10 **The End of the Samurai**

T June 6 Meiji Restoration and Disestablishing the Samurai

Th June 8 Post Restoration Rebellions

Readings: **Gauchospace:** James Buck, "The Satsuma Rebellion of 1877: From Kagoshima Through the Siege of Kumamoto Castle." *Monumenta Nipponica*, Vol. 28, No. 4 (Winter, 1973), pp. 427-446. Mark Ravina, "The Apocryphal Suicide of Saigō Takamori: Samurai, Seppuku, and the Politics of Legend," *Journal of Asian Studies*, (2010) vol. 69 no. 3 pp. 691-721.

FINAL EXAM: Thursday June 15 4:00-7:00 PM