# History 87: Japanese History through Art and Literature,

#  with Professor Roberts

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| TA | [Kristen Thomas-McGill](https://www.history.ucsb.edu/graduate-student/kthomasmcgill/) | Email | kthomasmcgill@ucsb.edu  |
| Office | HSSB 3223, but find me online | Student Hours | Tuesdays 10:30-12:30, or by appointment |

### **About Section:**

Section provides us a space in which we can discuss, critically evaluate, and digest the concepts, documents, and facts we encounter in lecture and in the readings. Section is a time to get to know our fellow scholars and listen to, learn from, and help each other. Section is not a lecture class; it allows for activities and small group work. We’ll do our best to translate collegial atmosphere online. In order for us to work effectively as a section, the following will be expected of everyone:

* Be respectful of your classmates, your time, and your instructors
* Do the assigned readings, do the quizzes and one pagers, and watch the Tuesday and Thursday lectures
* Participate by asking questions, interacting with your classmates, and sharing your thoughts appropriately

### **Requirements:**

You are expected to attend and actively participate in section every week. I will take attendance at every section. If you cannot attend, please contact me **before** section to discuss your absence. There will be opportunities to make up missed sections, but you will need to communicate with me on how that can be done. **Three or more unexcused section absences results in failure of the entire course. If technological or health issues prevent you from participation contact me ASAP to arrange for makeup activities. You do not have permission to record sections.**

Reading and video assignments are also an integral part of the course. Keeping up with the reading will help you with your exams, section participation, and overall understanding of the course. You are expected to do ALL the reading and watch ALL lectures before section each week. Do not fall behind in the readings; it is hard to catch up in the quarter system.

### **Grading:**

Section accounts for 20% of your grade for History 87. Grading for section will be broken into two parts:

* **Attendance**: 5% of overall grade for History 87. Per Professor Roberts’s syllabus, “students who miss *more* than two discussion sections will fail the class.” Please notify me beforehand if you know you will be absent, especially if it is an ongoing issue like a lack of Internet access.
* **Participation:** 5% of grade for History 87. Section is designed to be interactive, and it is essential that you contribute in each of our meetings. Participation includes behavior like digitally raising your hand, contributing to group discussions (verbally or in chat!), asking questions, taking notes, and demonstrating active listening. The best way to earn participation points is to answer (or ask) questions.
* **Pre-Writing Assignments:** 10% of grade for History 87 (5% each). This course requires two short papers. The week before papers are due, you will be required to submit a thesis statement and paper outline on GauchoSpace. These pre-assignments are opportunities for me to give you feedback to help guide you in writing your paper. More information about these assignments will be given as we approach these deadlines.

*continued*

**Grading Scale:**

99-100= A+ 93-96= A 90-92= A- 87-89= B+ 83-86 = B 80-82= B-

77-79= C+ 73-76= C 70-72= C- 67-69= D+ 63-66= D 60-62= D-

59 and Below= F

**Grading Appeals:**

You are welcome to appeal an assignment grade, but you must wait 24 hours after receiving the graded assignment back to begin the appeals process. Write a letter explaining why reconsideration is appropriate, attach it to the graded assignment, and give it to me in person. I will review your petition with another TA for History 87 and we will collectively determine whether your grade goes up, goes down, or stays the same.

### **Academic Dishonesty:**

“Papers, examinations, laboratory reports, and homework must always be your own work. Cheating, plagiarism, and collusion are all forms of academic dishonesty and are violations of the Student Conduct Code. Students found responsible for these violations face possible suspension or dismissal from the University.”—from “Academic Integrity: A Student’s Guide” at <http://judicialaffairs.sa.ucsb.edu/AcademicIntegrity.aspx>.

Per Professor Roberts’s syllabus, “There will be zero tolerance of all academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating on exams. We will report all cases of dishonesty to the dean and treat accordingly. All materials I produce for this course are copyrighted. Use them for your study, but redistributing and posting them elsewhere is against the law and strictly prohibited.” This statement is in effect for work done in or for section. Academic dishonesty will be reported AND will likely cause you to fail the assignment.

### **Writing:**

This class requires two 4-5 page essays, due April 21 and May 26. Further instructions on these projects will be given in lecture, on GauchoSpace, and in later meetings of section. There are three things you can do to set yourself up for good essays: keep up with your reading from the beginning of class; start working on your writing early; and consult with me during student hours to make sure you’re on target.

Please reach out to CLAS for help with paper organization, format, grammar, word choice, etc. Their website is <http://clas.sa.ucsb.edu/>.

**Accommodations:**

I am happy to accommodate students with disabilities and special life circumstances. I have enabled closed captioning on Zoom (I think? I tried, at least), and am happy to change font, text size, etc. Some accommodations (testing arrangements, notetaking, etc.) can only be provided after approval by the Disabled Students Program. For more information, visit the DSP office webpage at <http://dsp.sa.ucsb.edu>.

### **Getting in Touch:**

Don’t hesitate to contact me! I am here to help you with questions or concerns or to chat about your insights and ideas. You can reach me by email at the address listed above. I will return all emails received from Monday at 8:00 am through Friday at 5:00 pm within 24 hours. Weekend and holiday emails will be answered on the next working day. Please also find me on Nectir ([@kthomasmcgill](https://ucsb.nectir.io/direct/kthomasmcgill)). If we ever get to go back to campus, you can find me in HSSB 3223.

*This syllabus is subject to written or verbal revision at any time.*

*Many thanks to fellow TA Donna Anderson for assistance in composing this syllabus.*