Course Title: INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE HISTORY
Course Code: HST3258
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week
Category of Major Prog.: Elective
Prerequisite(s): None
Co-requisite(s): None
Exclusion(s): None

Brief Course Description
This course gives an overview of Japanese history from its origins through contemporary developments. The founding cultural and political dynamics of pre-modern Japan will be explored, while particular emphasis will be given to changes in Japan in the modern era and her contemporary regional and global relations.

Aims
This course seeks to give students a general familiarity with the fundamental characteristics of Japanese history and culture and an appreciation for her modern development and global position.

Learning Outcomes
1) Knowledge of the fundamental political, social, economic, and cultural features of Japan throughout its history.
2) Appreciation of Japan’s historical character in comparison to Korea’s and China’s in light of its historical interactions with these neighbors.
4) Awareness of current important domestic and foreign relations issues in Japan, and ability to historically contextualize them.
5) Ability to analyze, both through oral discussion and in writing, translated Japanese historical primary sources.

Indicative Content
I. Introduction
   A. Land
   B. People
   C. Language
   D. Historical Patterns

II. Early Japan
   A. Origins
   B. Early History

III. Traditional Japan
   A. Yamato Period: The Introduction of Chinese Thought and Culture (552-710)
   B. Nara Japan: The Stimulating Effect of Chinese Culture (710-784)
   C. Heian Period: Development of Native Culture (794-1185)

IV. Medieval Feudal Japan
   A. Major Features
   B. Kamakura Period (1185-1333)
   C. The Ashikaga Shogunate (1333-1573)
V. Early Modern Japan, 1615-1868
   A. The Unification of Japan
   B. The Tokugawa Bakufu
   C. Japan in Isolation
   D. Wind of Change

VI. The Meiji Era, 1868-1912
   A. The Meiji Restoration
   B. Political Restructuring
   C. Industrialization
   D. Social and Cultural Change

VII. Prewar Japan, 1912-1931
   A. Taisho Democracy
   B. Japan as Colonial Power
   C. Expansion and Militarism

VIII. World War II, 1931-1945
   A. Manchukuo
   B. The China War
   C. Road to Pearl Harbor
   D. The End of World War II

IX. Postwar Japan I (1945-1952)
   A. The American Occupation
   B. A New Japan
   C. A Partially-Reconstructed System?

X. Postwar Japan II (1952-1990s)
   A. Political Life
   B. Economic Giant
   C. Foreign Affairs
   D. Postwar Successes and Beyond

XI. Japan Today and Tomorrow
   A. Economic Crisis
   B. Politics and Reform
   C. Social and Cultural Transformation

Teaching Method
Lectures will provide an interpretive framework for the materials covered in the textbooks. Class discussions will help students to interact with each other through the analysis of primary materials, scholarly work and media coverage.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
1) Quizzes and a final exam testing knowledge of major features of Japanese history, both internally and in relation to its East Asian neighbors.
2) A term project, entailing both in-class presentation and written essay, that requires investigation of an important current issue and offers a historical analysis of it.
3) In-class group discussion and a section of the final exam focusing on interpreting primary sources.
Assessment
Continuous Assessment  65%
Examination  35%

Required Reading

Supplemental Readings:

吴廷璆主编，《日本近代化研究》，北京：商务印书馆，1997。
林明德，《日本史》，台北：三民书局，1986。
南开大学日本研究中心(编) 《日本研究论集》，天津：南开大学出版社，1999。
约翰.惠特尼.霍尔(著), 鄧懿等(譯) 《日本：從史前到現代》，北京：商务印书館，1997。
鄭樑生，《日本通史》，台北：明文書局股份有限公司，第2版，1995。