

**JPT 3300                      SAMURAI WAR TALES**  
Spring 2019 – MWF 5th period, 11:45 – 12:35 pm, MAT 0113

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Instructor: Matthieu Felt ([mfelt@ufl.edu](mailto:mfelt@ufl.edu))

Office Hours: MW 2-4, Pugh 322

Explores the historical and cultural stimuli that led to war, recorded later as war narratives. Supported by images of architecture, narrative picture scrolls, and extant military accoutrements. (H and N)

The required texts below are available at the campus bookstore. All other readings will be provided via PDF on the course website. Students are expected to complete the reading assignment for each class **BEFORE** the class begins.

#### Required Textbooks

- Hiroaki Satō, *Legends of the Samurai* (Overlook Duckworth), 978-1590207307.
- Takeda Izumo, Miyoshi Shōraku, and Namiki Senryū, *Chūshingura: The Treasury of Loyal Retainers*, trans. Donald Keene (Columbia UP), 978-0231035316.

#### **Attendance and Participation – 20%**

This is primarily a discussion-based course and as such student participation is critical for its success. Active participation will be evaluated on attendance, participation in class discussion, and demonstration of reading completion.

#### **Postings – 20%**

11 postings are assigned over the course of the semester, beginning with week 3 (refer to the schedule below). They should be submitted to the “Discussions” section of the course website. At least one, if not more, suggested topics will be posted, but you may write on whatever you wish. Postings should be one paragraph in length (about 200 words) and reflect a thoughtful engagement with the assigned reading. Postings are due by 12:01 AM on the date indicated on the syllabus, midnight the day before class. One of the eleven assigned postings may be skipped.

#### **Paper 1 – 10%**

500 words. Choose one character we have examined so far in the course and discuss two or three aspects of their deeds or temperaments in relation to your own ideas about the ideal (or stereotypical) samurai. **Due Jan. 21 (Monday) at 12:01 AM.**

#### **Mini-report – 10%**

500 words. Who was Hojo Masako? **Due Feb. 04 (Monday) at 12:01 AM.**

### **Paper 2 – 15%**

900-1000 words. Compare two figures we have examined up to now in the course. **Due March 22 (Friday) at 12:01 AM.**

### **Final Project – 25%**

Create your own ideal samurai. Due April 30 at midnight.

Part 1 (presentation): A depiction of your samurai. Media should be settled in advance with the instructor but could include, websites, short stories, rhetorical essays, video games, physical sculptures, etc. As a basic guideline, written submissions need be no longer than 5-6 pages.

Part 2 (1200-1400 words): A critical analysis of what you created in the first part, drawing upon the themes and materials we have discussed over the course of the semester.

### **Grading**

Final grades will be assigned according to the percentages below:

A	93% and above	A-	90% and above		
B +	87% and above	B	83% and above	B-	80% and above
C+	77% and above	C	73% and above	C-	70% and above
D	67% and above	D	63% and above	D-	60% and above
F	Less than 60%				

### **Academic Honesty**

Please familiarize yourself with the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Material copied verbatim should be placed in quotation marks and cited appropriately, but this also applies to material that has been paraphrased or summarized. **You** are responsible for familiarizing yourself with what constitutes plagiarism.

### **Special Accommodations, Sports, etc.**

Please notify the instructor about any concerns regarding submission of assignments. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office.

## SCHEDULE

DATE	THEME	READING
<b>WEEK 1</b>		
Samurai Antecedents		
Jan. 07		Orientation
Jan. 09		<i>Kojiki</i> "Yamato Takeru" (89-97), <i>Nihon shoki</i> "Yamato Takeru" (1-11)
Jan. 11		<i>Kojiki</i> "Empress Jingū" (112-117), <i>Nihon shoki</i> "Empress Jingū" (1-18)
<b>WEEK 2</b>		
First Samurai		
Jan. 14		<i>Shōmonki: The Story of Masakado's Rebellion</i> (107-140)
Jan. 16		Karl Friday, "The Dawn of the Samurai" (178-187) "Taira no Koremochi," "Kanetada and Koremochi," "Tachibana no Norimitsu," "Sakanoue no Haruzumi" ( <i>Legends</i> , 37-60)
Jan. 18	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>*Paper one Jan 21 at midnight*</b>
<b>WEEK 3</b>		
Pious Samurai		
Jan. 23		<i>Tales of the Heikei</i> , "Koremori," (101-121)
Jan. 25	<b>Posting Due</b>	Warrior kōans (excerpts) "Annals of the Sword Tai'a" (83-101)
<b>WEEK 4</b>		
Famous Samurai		
Jan. 28		"Yoshitsune" ( <i>Legends</i> , pp. 109-156)
Jan. 30		"Tomoe Gozen" ( <i>Tales of the Heike</i> 463-468), "Tomoe Gozen" ( <i>Genpei Jōsuiki</i> , 1-10)
Feb. 01	<b>Posting Due</b>	Kusunoki Masashige ( <i>Legends</i> , pp. 157-187)
<b>WEEK 5</b>		
Samurai Warlords		
Feb. 04		Hōjō Masako (source finding assignment)
Feb. 06		"Takeda Shingen and Uesugi Kenshi" ( <i>Legends</i> 204-231)
Feb. 08	<b>Posting Due</b>	"Oda Nobunaga" ( <i>Legends</i> 232-246) Stephen Turnbull, <i>Toyotomi Hideyoshi: Leadership, Strategy, Conflict</i> (16-29)
<b>WEEK 6</b>		
Anti-Samurai		
Feb. 11		<i>The Secret Traditions of the Shinobi: Hattori Hanzo's Shinobi Hiden and Other Ninja Scrolls</i> (11-40)
Feb. 13		<i>The Secret Traditions of the Shinobi</i> (41-71)
Feb. 15	<b>Posting Due</b>	<i>True Path of the Ninja: The Definitive Translation of the Shoninki</i> (96-143)

<b>WEEK 7</b>	Samurai Ideals	
Feb. 18		<i>Book of Five Rings (Legends, pp. 256-272)</i>
Feb. 20		<i>Hagakure (Legends, pp. 287-303)</i>
Feb. 22	<b>Posting Due</b>	<i>Hagakure</i> “Pertaining to Death and War,” “Pertaining to Women” (219-247)
<b>WEEK 8</b>	Loyal Samurai	
Feb. 25		“The Forty-Seven Samurai: An Eyewitness Account, with Arguments” ( <i>Legends</i> , pp. 303-338)
Feb. 27		Denis Gainty, “The New Warriors” (344-354) <i>Chūshingura: the Treasury of Loyal Retainers</i> (29-103)
Mar. 01	<b>Posting Due</b>	<i>Chūshingura: the Treasury of Loyal Retainers</i> (104-180)
<b>SPRING BREAK</b>		
<b>WEEK 9</b>	Samurai Day-to-day	
Mar. 11		<i>Lust, Commerce, and Corruption: An Account of What I Have Seen and Heard by an Edo Samurai</i> (TBD)
Mar. 13		<i>Women of the Mito Domain: Recollections of Samurai Family Life</i> (TBD)
Mar. 15	<b>Posting Due</b>	<i>Musui’s Story</i> (TBD)
<b>WEEK 10</b>	Last Samurai	
Mar. 18		Mark Ravina, <i>The Last Samurai: The Life and Battles of Saigō Takamori</i> , (191-214)
Mar. 20		Diane Wright, “Female Combatants and Japan’s Meiji Restoration: The Case of Aizu” (396-417)
Mar. 22	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<b>*Paper two due at midnight*</b>
<b>WEEK 11</b>	Remembering Samurai	
Mar. 25		Nitobe Inazō, <i>Bushido</i> (TBD)
Mar. 27		Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, “Loyalty” (90-108) Mori Ōgai, “The Abe Family” ( <i>Legends</i> , pp. 341-379)
Mar. 29	<b>Posting Due</b>	Shimazaki Tōson, <i>Before the Dawn</i> (TBD), <i>Women of the Mito Domain</i> (140-145)
<b>WEEK 12</b>	Samurai Cowboys	
Apr. 01		Akira Kurosawa, <i>Yojimbo</i> (1961, 110 min.)
Apr. 03		Sergio Leone, <i>Fistful of Dollars</i> (1964 Italy, 1967 USA, 99 min.)
Apr. 05	<b>Posting Due</b>	Yoshioka Hiroshi, “Samurai and Self-colonization in Japan” (99-112)
<b>WEEK 13</b>	Black Samurai	

Apr. 08		Accounts of Yasuke (PDF)
Apr. 10		Takashi Okazaki, <i>Afro Samurai</i> (7-66)
Apr. 12	<b>Posting Due</b>	Jim Jarmusch, <i>Ghost Dog: The Way of the Samurai</i> (1999, 116 min.)
<b>WEEK 14</b>	White Samurai	
Apr. 15		James Clavell, <i>Shogun</i> (TBD)
Apr. 17		Edward Zwick, <i>The Last Samurai</i> (2003, 154 min.)
Apr. 19	<b>Posting Due</b>	Mina Shin, "Making a Samurai Western: Japan and the White Samurai Fantasy in <i>The Last Samurai</i> " (1065-1078), Henry Smith, "James Clavell and the Legend of the British Samurai," "Japan, Jawpen, and the Attractions of an Opposite" (1-19, 20-26)
<b>WEEK 15</b>		
Apr. 22		Final Projects Presentation
Apr. 24		Final Projects Presentation