Professor’s Name:
Office:
Email:
Phone:

Course Description:

Most people have heard of samurai as those Japanese guys with the long swords and unfailing loyalty. While that was one of the images of a samurai, this course is more concerned with the samurai as a social class. We will look at the samurai class from its beginnings as a professional warrior class (somewhere around 900 AD in the Kanto area of Japan) to their dissolution as a formal social class in the 1880s. During this time the samurai played many roles as fighter, ruler, bureaucrat, role model, and finally as disruptive and unnecessary. We will look at these and on the influences of the samurai even after they technically no longer existed.

Required Texts:


These will be supplemented by other readings in Blackboard and on JSTOR as needed. Articles marked JSTOR are available on JSTOR through the EKU library website (click databases). Items marked BLACKBOARD are under Course Documents

Tentative Reading Schedule (subject to changes and modifications with at least one week notice, probably more)

**Week 1:**

- Intro, Stereotypes, Japan a turbo history
Week 2:
   Some theoretical issues
   Origins of the samurai
   Ikegami: 3-43
   Ikegami: 47-70, George Sansom, A History of Japan to 1334: 234-238 BLACKBOARD (you will probably need to click if article does not open automatically you can open it here to get full pages)

Week 3:
   Medieval Japan
   The Taiheiki: 70-79 BLACKBOARD
   Ikegami: 78-94,
   Friday: Intro-chapter 2, p. 1-62,

Week 4:
   Feudalism and Kamakura
   Friday: chapter 3-epilog, p. 63-168

Week 5:
   Samurai Movies
   TBA

Week 6:
   Kamakura, Ashikaga
   The Taiheiki p. 85-91 BLACKBOARD
   Ivan Morris, “Kusunoki Masashige” in Ivan Morris, The Nobility of Failure BLACKBOARD

Week 7:
   Tokugawa
   Ikegami: 151-194,

Week 8:
   Bushido
   Samurai series (books TBA)
Week 9:
Bushido revisited
Ikegami: 278-298,

Week 10:
47 Ronin
Ikegami: 223-240,

Week 11:
Samurai at the end of Tokugawa
Ikegami 259-264, 269-281,
Article: Constantine V. Vaporis “Samurai and Merchant in Mid-Tokugawa Japan: Tani Tannai’s Record of Daily Necessities (1748-54)” Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, 60, no, 1 (June, 2000): 205-227 JSTOR

Week 12:
Meiji
Ikegami 320-325, 360-369,

Week 13:
Saigo Takamori

Influence of the samurai

Week 14:

Week 15:
- Presentations

Week 16:
- Presentations

**Student Learning Outcome:**

To understand samurai values and lifestyle through time.

To understand and be able to assess the various political and social roles played by the samurai.

To begin to understand how to look at history from the standpoint of one social class.

To begin to understand some of the historiography of Japanese history.

**Evaluation Methods:**

**Student Progress:**

**Attendance Policy:**

**Last Date to Drop the Course:**

The last day to drop or withdraw from a class is highlighted in the class schedule and accessible from EKU’s Colonel’s Compass (http://www.eku.edu/compass/).

**Disability Statement:**

If you are registered with the Office of Services for Individuals with Disabilities, please obtain your accommodation letters from the OSID, present them to the course instructor, and discuss the accommodations needed. If you believe you need an accommodation and are not registered with the OSID, please contact the office in 361 Whitlock Building by email at disserv@eku.edu or by telephone at (859) 622-2933. Upon individual request, this syllabus can be made available in an alternative format.

A student with a “disability” may be an individual with a physical or psychological impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, to include, but
not limited to: seeing, hearing, communicating, interacting with others, learning, thinking, concentrating, sitting, standing, lifting, performing manual tasks, working. Additionally, pregnancy accompanied by a medical condition(s), which causes a similar substantial limitation, may also be considered under the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAA).

**Academic Integrity Statement:**

Students are advised that EKU’s Academic Integrity policy will strictly be enforced in this course. The Academic Integrity policy is available at www.academicintegrity.eku.edu. Questions regarding the policy may be directed to the Office of Academic Integrity.

**Official E-mail:**

EKU email is considered the official communication between EKU Faculty and EKU students. In this course, only official EKU student email accounts should be used for communication purposes. Students are expected to read their emails in a timely manner so new email will be properly read and received. A student’s failure to receive and read University communications delivered to his/her official email address in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of such communications. Students have the responsibility to recognize that certain communications may be time-critical.

Students are always encouraged to contact instructor especially when in doubt in content, assignment, discussion items, schedules, etc. I’ll normally reply back to you within 1 or 2 working days (normally, do not expect to get response during holidays and weekends), but I often get back to you even much faster! However, if there is no response within 2 days, it would be wiser for you to contact instructor again.

**Course Requirements:**

Participation 30%: You are expected to attend class and take part in the weekly discussions. This means you are expected to have read and thought about the week’s material. Students will turn in a 1-2 page analysis of the week’s assignment (you may use this for discussion notes during class and turn it in when you leave). This analysis should discuss the main arguments the author, or authors, uses how they fit in with what you know, analytical questions you might think of while reading etc. In short, I am looking to see if you have tried to engage the material. As long as you show a good effort to understand what you read you should be ok. I plan to also use this as a dialogue, of sorts, with you about the material, what you should pay more attention to etc.

**Project 50%:** This should be at least 12 pages in length and will be focused on a samurai film. Details to follow.
House Codes Primary source check sheet and comparison 20%: Details to be determined.