

**Japanese 4040: Advanced Topics in Japanese Culture**  
**The Lives of the Samurai**  
**University of North Texas --- Fall 2021**

**Instructor and Office:**

Instructor: Dr. Kaori Furuya  
Email: kaori.furuya@unt.edu  
Office: LANG 405 G  
Main office phone: (940) 565-2404

**Class and Office Hour:**

Office Hour: Thursdays  
11:00-12:00 or by appointment  
Class Hour: Tu & Th 11:00-12:20  
Classroom: Lang 114

**Course Description:**

This course surveys Japan's unification process in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries through the lives of three most famous samurai in Japan: Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, and Tokugawa Ieyasu. This course will focus on their personalities and careers as well as political, social and cultural events that led to the unification of Japan. The discussion will be based on a selection of texts, video clips, and short skits that illustrate the topics addressed in the class. Prerequisites: JAPN 3030 as corequisite or prerequisite

**Learning Outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, learners will be able to:

- Gain in-depth social and cultural understanding of the samurai lives and social norms in the sixteen and seventeen centuries.
- Display critical understanding of the conditions of the production and reception of the culture and society in those periods.
- Read and understand with increasing ease texts written in authentic Japanese.
- Speak clearly and creatively on the topics covered in the class
- Develop a broader range of vocabulary and kanji

**Required Materials:**

- *Sengokujidai no fuunji Oda Nobunaga* by Suzuki Shunpei (1983)
- *Zouri tori kara sengokuno eiyuuni Toyotomi Hideyoshi* by Okada Yoshio (1981)
- *Edobakufu o hiraku Tokugawa Ieyasu* by Masumoto Seicho (1981)

**Grading Scales:**

Attendance & Participation	10%
Homework assignments	20%
Quizzes (6)	20%
Presentation (1)	10%
Midterms (2)	20%
Final exam	20%

April 16 is the last day to drop the course. If you submit your drop paperwork by this date, you will receive a W or WF on your transcript, which will not be calculated into your GPA.

100% = A      80 – 89% = B      70 – 79% = C      60 – 69% = D      59% or below = F

### **Attendance & Participation:**

Regular attendance will be required. Repeated unexcused absences and tardiness will affect your grade significantly. Being tardy three times will count as one absence. Leaving class before the end of the period will be considered an absence. You are allowed a maximum of three (3) absences, whether excused or unexcused, without penalty. **After three absences, your final grade will suffer in percent (1 percent will be deducted from the final grade for each unexcused absence). After the eighth absence, you will receive a failing grade for the class.**

Excused absences are only: A.) illness with doctor's documentation, B.) official university sponsored activities, and C.) the observance of certain religious holidays (see University Class Attendance Regulations in the UNT Policy Manual <http://policy.unt.edu/policy/15-2-5> for details).

Attendance Policy at UNT: *Students are expected to attend class meetings regularly and to abide by the attendance policy established for the course. It is important that you communicate with the professor and the instructional team prior to being absent, so you, the professor, and the instructional team can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform the professor and instructional team if you are unable to attend class meetings because you are ill, in mindfulness of the health and safety of everyone in our community.*

*If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or [askSHWC@unt.edu](mailto:askSHWC@unt.edu)) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Team at [COVID@unt.edu](mailto:COVID@unt.edu) for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure.*

### **Homework Assignments:**

the material assigned will be discussed and corrected in class and be collected in class on the assigned due day. They must be neat and legible and should be written in complete sentences, unless the instructor specifies otherwise. You will also write short summary papers as part of homework. This helps you prepare for the project. The format and contents of writing will be given in class.

### **Quizzes (6 times):**

There are six quizzes given in class. Each quiz includes questions on what was covered from the topics as well as the vocabulary and phrases covered in class and the assigned reading materials. Detailed information will be provided in class.

### **Presentation (1 time):**

You will select a topic from the list created by the instructor and make a presentation in Japanese during the class hour. Detailed information will be given in class.

### **Midterms (2 times):**

Two midterms will cover the topics that relate to two samurai lives covered during the one and second third of the semester. The exam will consist of answering multiple questions and short answers.

### **Final exam:**

The final exam will cover the topics that relate to the last samurai's live covered during the third of the semester. Taking the final exam is mandatory to receive a passing grade in this course. Taking the final exam is mandatory to receive a passing grade in this course.

**Weekly Schedule:**

Week I	Introduction, <i>Oda Nobunaga</i> pp1-2	
Week II	<i>Oda Nobunaga</i> pp3-4, 6-7	
Week III	<i>Oda Nobunaga</i> pp 8-9, pp10-11	Quiz1
Week IV	<i>Oda Nobunaga</i> pp12, 14, Quiz2, Review	Quiz2
Week V	<i>Oda Nobunaga</i> presentation1, midterm1	Midterm
Week VI	<i>Toyotomi Hideyoyoshi</i> pp1-2, 3-4	
Week VII	<i>Toyotomi Hideyoyoshi</i> pp5-6, 9-10	Quiz3
Week VIII	<i>Toyotomi Hideyoyoshi</i> pp11-12, 13-14	
Week IX	<i>Toyotomi Hideyoyoshi</i> pp15-16, Quiz4 Review	Quiz4
Week X	<i>Toyotomi Hideyoyoshi</i> Presentation2,	Midterm2
Week XI	<i>Tokugawa Ieyasu</i> pp1-2, pp3-4	
Week XII	<i>Tokugawa Ieyasu</i> pp7-8, pp9-10	Quiz5
Week XIII	<i>Tokugawa Ieyasu</i> pp11-12, p15	
Week XIV	Presentations	
Week XV	Review	Quiz6
		Final Exam

Please note a more detailed weekly schedule, which includes all your home assignments and in-class activities are displayed, on Blackboard.

**UNT Health alerts**

Coronavirus-related updates (including vaccination and testing information) can be found at <https://healthalerts.unt.edu/>

*UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.*

**Course Evaluation:**

The Student Evaluation, SPOT, will be available at the end of the semester, providing you a chance to comment on this class. The SPOT is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT, and responses are used by the department in evaluating the faculty. We work to continually improve our courses, so we appreciate your feedback!

**DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:**

*The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For additional information, refer to the*

Office of Disability Access website at <https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access>. You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

**ACCEPTABLE STUDENT BEHAVIOR:**

*Student behavior that interferes with an instructor's ability to conduct a class or other students' opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at [www.deanofstudents.unt.edu](http://www.deanofstudents.unt.edu)*

**SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, & ASSAULT**

*UNT is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences any of these acts of aggression, please know that you are not alone. The federal Title IX law makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses. UNT has staff members trained to support you in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.*

*UNT's Dean of Students' website offers a range of on-campus and off-campus resources to help support survivors, depending on their unique needs: <http://deanofstudents.unt.edu/resources>. Renee LeClaire McNamara is UNT's Student Advocate and she can be reached through e-mail at [SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu](mailto:SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu) or by calling the Dean of Students' office at 940-565-2648. You are not alone. We are here to help.*

**Mission of the World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures:** Representing many world languages, literatures and cultures, our dedicated faculty promote excellence in research, teaching and professional service. Committed to cultural diversity and inclusivity, we teach our undergraduate and graduate students communication, critical thinking and research skills for competitive employment around the world.

**Vision:** We strive to establish a reputation both nationally and internationally in research, teaching and professional service. Seeking harmony in diversity, we foster global literacy, responsible citizenship and interdisciplinarity.