

# PAAS 180 - Premodern Japanese Culture

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Photo:



Course description:

Japan has existed as a distinct entity for over 2,500 years. This course charts its cultural history from the earliest moments up to the dawn of the modern era in 1868, introducing the language, religions, literatures, and arts that continue to resonate in and influence Japan to the present day. Discover the roots of continuity, stability, and innovation that have allowed Japan to flourish across the millennia.

Proposed assignments:

Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	15%
Bibliography and Outline	20%
Midterm Essay:	20%
Term Essay:	30%

## Proposed reading list:

<<http://www.t-net.ne.jp/~keally/jpnarch.html>>, read the sections on the Paleolithic, Jōmon, Yayoi, and Kofun periods.

<<http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/aft/>> Ainu Folk Tales. Sections to be assigned in class.

<<http://www.sacred-texts.com/shi/kojiki.htm>> The Kojiki, Records of Ancient Matters. Sections to be assigned in class.

<http://www.wakapoetry.net/>

<<http://www.sacred-texts.com/bud/rosa/index.htm>> on Zen Buddhism; sections to be assigned in class.

<<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24/Hojoki.html>> “The Hōjōki” by Kamo no Chōmei

[http://jguide.stanford.edu/site/traditional\\_theater\\_339.html](http://jguide.stanford.edu/site/traditional_theater_339.html)

<http://etext.virginia.edu/japanese/noh/>

<http://www.the-noh.com/en/plays/index.html>

<http://www2.ntj.jac.go.jp/unesco/noh/en/>

<http://www.kabuki21.com/>

<http://bunraku.or.jp/ebunraku/index.html>

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/ukiyo-e/>

<http://archive.library.metro.tokyo.jp/da/top>

Boyd, James “Japanese Shinto: An Interpretation of a Priestly Perspective,” *Philosophy East and West*, Volume 55, Number 1, January 2005, pp. 33-63

Maringer, Johannes, “Clay Figurines Of The Jomon Period: A Contribution To The History Of Ancient Religion In Japan,” *History of Religions*, 14:2 (1974:Nov.) p.128  
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1062005>>

<<http://www.anthropoetics.ucla.edu/ap0501/tea.htm>>

Naokazu, Miyaji “What Is Shinto?” *Contemporary Religions in Japan*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Mar., 1966), pp. 40-50

<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30232984>>

Watt, Paul “Shinto & Buddhism: Wellsprings of Japanese Spirituality,” Article written by Paul Watt for the Asia Society's Focus on Asian Studies, Vol. II, No. 1, *Asian Religions*, pp. 21-23, Fall 1982.

Wright, Nancy “Forest Spirits, Giant Insects and World Trees: The Nature Vision of Hayao Miyazaki,” *Journal of Religion and Popular Culture*, Volume 10, Summer, 2005

Yoshida, Kazuhiko “Revisioning Religion in Ancient Japan,” *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*, Vol. 30, No. 1/2 (Spring, 2003), pp. 1-26,  
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30234476>>

“Shinto Symbols,” *Contemporary Religions in Japan*, Vol. 7, No. 1 (Mar., 1966), pp. 3-39,  
<<http://www.jstor.org/stable/30232983>>

### Required Texts:

Henshall, Kenneth A *History of Japan, From Stone-Age to Superpower*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012 (Chapters 1-3)

Inoue, Nobutaka Kami, Tokyo: Institute for Japanese Culture and Classics, 1998

Saikaku, Ihara “The Travelling Salesman who Sold Advice,” from *Some Final Words of Advice*, tr. Peter Nosco, PL794 S25E5