



What does "feudal" mean, and what does the word "modern" imply? What is a nation state? How do we conceptualize capitalism, fascism or democracy? And, above all: what do we actually mean, when we think or speak of the past as "history"?

### **Initial competences**

Secondary education degree. Solid knowledge of English. Being able to follow and understand texts and explanations written or given in English. (The teaching material is in English).

### **Final competences**

- 1 Knowing the arguably significant historical events and basic developments of the history of Japan
- 2 Being aware of the tension between the historical facts of the matter and the problem of their interpretation and (re)presentation
- 3 Being able to use critically historiographical and other secondary sources concerning Japanese history in order to obtain and evaluate information
- 4 Having demonstrated to yourself if and in how far you are capable of using provided material in order to discuss issues of Japanese history.
- 5 Being able to apply general concepts, such as state, society, feudalism, class, modernity, etc. Having an awareness of the epistemic surplus and the limitations of such concepts

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### **Conditions for exam contract**

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

### **Teaching methods**

Lecture

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

lecture (on campus and/ or online via Zoom or MS-Teams with recording via Ufora, due to expected large number of participants).  
Because of COVID19, changes may be made to the teaching forms, if necessary.

### **Learning materials and price**

Mandatory: Conrad Totman: A History of Japan. Second edition (Malden (MA), Oxford(UK): Blackwell Publishing, 2005).

Optional (very concise, in Dutch): Boot, W.J.: Keizers en Shōgun: Een geschiedenis van Japan tot 1868 (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2001).

Additional teaching material (will be distributed via Ufora): Course Outline, including a tailor-made chronology; lecture scripts, etc.

The total costs for the course is ca. EUR 50.-.

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

Interactive support via Ufora and/or e-mail, personally on appointment, also online.

### **Assessment moments**

end-of-term assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

Written assessment, written assessment with multiple-choice questions, written assessment with open-ended questions

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

Written assessment, written assessment with multiple-choice questions, written assessment with open-ended questions

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

not applicable

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

Periodical: written exam with open and multiple choice questions (100%): the exam has to be passed, i.e. the student has to obtain at least 10 of 20 possible points.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

Periodical exam (100%) counted on 20 possible credit points in total.

**Facilities for Working Students**

1. Participation in educational activities is required
2. The examination cannot be rescheduled.
3. Feedback can be given during an appointment during office hours.