

Inquiry Seminar: Samurai Warriors of Japan Syllabus

Dr. Linda L. Johnson



Inquiry Seminar Course Objectives

Welcome to this Inquiry Seminar which is designed to introduce you to the community of scholarship through an intensive, collaborative investigation of a specific topic – in this case, the changing representation of samurai warriors in Japanese history.

All Inquiry Seminars have these learning outcomes:

1. Students will demonstrate an awareness of the value of intellectual investigation, the perspectival character of knowledge, and the need for continuous and enlightening public discourse.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the ethical responsibility involved in intellectual investigation, the need for critical analysis of beliefs and assumptions, and the sense of beauty that comes with learning and discovery.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct an intellectual investigation by gathering, evaluating and developing data for well-reasoned arguments and cogent conclusions.

All Inquiry Seminars address Concordia's Goals for Liberal Learning:

1. Introduce students to the ethical and aesthetic dimensions of the course topic.
2. Develop critical reasoning skills.
3. Guide students in the application of appropriate research methodology.

All Inquiry Seminars are writing intensive to ensure that students:

1. Develop information literacy and research competencies.
2. Practice generative writing as a way of learning.
3. Practice a writing process, either 1) using a draft revision cycle, or 2) breaking a large assignment into graded states.
4. Produce at least 15 pages of polished writing spread across multiple writing assignments.

Instructor Contact Information

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Dr. Linda L. Johnson

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:40-4:30 and by appointment; scheduled appointments preferred

Course Description

Samurai warriors are synonymous with Japan. Martial arts heroes in medieval war chronicle, ninja spies, and women whose courage and fighting skills that were the equal of any man – samurai warriors have captured our imagination. In this inquiry seminar, we will study some of the great heroes of Japan, as they were written about in war chronicles. Studying samurai and their ideals enable us to reflect on our own values – for example, what are the limits of loyalty and obedience and for what do we wish to live and die?

Required Texts

- The following texts are required for this course and can be purchased at the college bookstore: (all Inquiry Seminar students are required to purchase these three texts)
 - *Inquiry Matters: A Student Guidebook for Writing in the Core and Using the Carl B. Ylvisaker Library* (Note: this text will also be required next semester for your IWC 100: College Writing course). (continued next page)

- Hacker and Sommers, *A Pocket Style Manual* (Note: this text will also be required next semester for your IWC 100: College Writing course).
- *The FYT Lab Manual*
- Moodle – Course Management System: All registered students in this course are automatically enrolled in the Moodle account for this course. Through Moodle you will access assigned readings, guidelines for written assignments, and receive announcements from Dr. Johnson. Therefore, you must have regular internet access and regularly check your Concordia email account in order to fulfill course requirements. The direct login for Moodle is <http://moodle.cord.edu> Your username and password are the same as for C-Port .

Developing a Community of Inquiry: Course Policies and Expectations

Academic Integrity: We are obligated to conduct our inquiry with honesty and integrity. All work submitted for a grade in this course should be consistent with the policies stated in *Academic Integrity at Concordia College: A Handbook for Faculty, Students, and the Staff of the College*, reprinted in *Inquiry Matters*, pages 72-74. Specifically, this means that all work you submit for a grade should be your own work; plagiarism will be penalized with a grade double zero (if the assignment is worth 10% of the course grade, for example, you would receive a zero for 20% of the course grade). Academic integrity violations will be referred to the Office of the Dean of the College and Vice President for Academic Affairs for disciplinary action.

Appropriate Assistance in Preparing Written Assignments: You are encouraged to seek the assistance of Dr. Johnson, as well as Writing Center tutors (Library or Academic Enhancement Center). **The Writing Center will now be located in the library and appointments can be made online at www.concordiacollege.edu/writingcenter.** It is less appropriate to request assistance from others who might be tempted to correct your writing or tell you what to write – any work submitted for a grade/credit, should be in your own words.

Classroom Policies of Consideration: You are requested to arrive on time; try not to be disruptive if you must enter after class has begun. You are required to silence cell phones during class; please consult your messages only during class break.. Dr. Johnson will state when electronic devices can be used during class

Preparation for Class, Attendance, Make-up Work, Late Work: You must arrive to class prepared, with the assignments read and any assigned work completed. You also need to bring the assigned texts for that day to class in order to refer to them in class discussion. Being prepared for class is essential because it affects not only you and your understanding of course material, but also your classmates' understandings. You all rely on each other to read, consider, and discuss the course material in order to be fully successful in this class.

Because of the importance of your contribution to the community of inquiry, there are penalties for excessive absences. Daily attendance will be taken. In accordance with college policy, students who miss class because of participation in college-sponsored activities will be permitted to complete missed work without penalty. It is the responsibility of the student to notify Dr. Johnson, in writing, of scheduled absences as soon as the information is available. Together, we will determine the date assignments will be submitted. In the case of illness or family emergency, submit a written request for the late submission of an assignment and append a written statement from a health care professional (campus health center, for example) or a family member. **Please note: apart from these circumstances, late assignments will not receive credit.**

Brief Description of Assignments and Grading

Daily Reading Assignments: There are daily reading assignments. Bring the book or hard copy of the assigned text (or access to an electronic copy) in order to refer to them in class discussion. It is expected that you will have completed a careful reading of the assignment before coming to class.

Notebook Assignments: These are generative writing assignments, completed in class. These informal writing assignments will help you "write to learn" by responding to questions addressed during class. Entries are graded satisfactory (complete, accurate information), unsatisfactory (incomplete, inaccurate information), or zero if the assignment is not completed. These assignments constitute 25% of your course grade. A Library Launch session and a library information literacy skills session, as well as six FYT Labs will be awarded credit in this category of assignments. Attendance during these sessions will constitute a satisfactory grade. Your Historian's Notebook assignments will be graded as follows:

- A 90% of Historian's Notebook assignments are satisfactory
- B 85%
- C 80%
- D 75%
- F

Portfolio of Written Assignments: There will be a variety of written assignments (e.g. text annotation, summary, rhetorical analysis essay, analysis of opposing views, movie review, response essay, and a data analysis and argument essay) that will constitute an electronic portfolio maintained on Moodle. Periodically, there will be opportunities to revise assignments for a higher grade. Individual written assignments will have written guidelines and evaluation criteria. Written assignments are awarded letter grades – converted numerically (as stated in the college catalog) for the purpose of calculating your final grade.

A	4.0	
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	
B	3.0	
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	
C-	1.7	
D+	1.3	
D	1.0	
D-	.7	minimum passing

Course Grade:

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Notebook Assignments:	25% of course grade
(includes participation in FYT labs)	
Written Assignments: (due dates in parentheses)	
Text Annotation (9/1)	2.5% of course grade
Text Annotation (9/3)	2.5%
Summary (9/15)	5.0%
Rhetorical Analysis (9/22)	7.5%
Analyzing Opposing Views (9/24)	7.5%
*Rhetorical Analysis (10/13)	7.5%
*Reflective Essay (10/22)	7.5%
*Movie Review (11/5)	7.5%
*Argumentation Essay (11/12)	7.5%
*Data Analysis and Argumentative Essay (12/8)	10.0%
Portfolio Assignment Revision (12/10, 12/15)	<u>10.0%</u>
	100.0%

*Indicates a portfolio assignment that can be revised for additional credit

Note: Extra credit will be awarded (maximum credit will be the equivalent of raising an A- to an A), at the discretion of the instructor, for class participation, evaluated both on the quality (analytical skill, accuracy of information) and frequency of participation in class discussion.

Schedule of Assignments

Note: Dr. Johnson reserves the right to make necessary changes in the following assignments. If there is a discrepancy between the assignment identified here and the assignment identified on the Moodle course page, the Moodle course page is correct.

Date of Class	Assignment to be Completed Before the Beginning of Class
Th. Aug. 27	On this first day of class there is no assignment; you need not bring texts to class. The course syllabus will be distributed
Tues. Sept. 1	McClain, "The Origins of the Japanese State and the Appearance of the Samurai" Turnbull, "Samurai in a Nutshell" Annotate both texts
Th. Sept. 3	Sato, "Minamoto no Mitsune and Taira no Yoshifumi: The Duel" Sato, "Fujiwara no Yasumasa and Hakamadare: Presence of Mind" Annotate both texts
Fri. Sept. 4	FYT Lab #1 (Attendance Required)
Tues. Sept 8	Varley, "Historical Background to the War Tales in Konjaku Monogatari" Library Launch – Class meets in the Library – 2nd floor
Th. Sept. 10	Sato, "Muraoka no Goro and Hakamadare: To Know When to be Alert" "Taira no Koremochi, AKA General Yogo: Did You Bring His Head?" "Kanetada and Koremachi: Meaning of Revenge" "Tachibana no Norimitsu: What Splendid Horsemanship"
Fri. Sept. 11	FYT Lab #2 (Attendance Required)
Tues. Sept. 15	Summary Assignment Due
Th. Sept. 17	Morris, "Victory Through Defeat: Minamoto no Yoshitsune" Varley, "Yoshitsune"
Tues. Sept. 22	Sato, "Minamoto no Yoshitsune: A Hero Hounded" In-Class Writing Assignment: Rhetorical Analysis

Tues. Sept 22 and Wed. Sept. 23	<p>Attend the plenary sessions of the Faith Reason and World Affairs Symposium (Memorial Auditorium)</p> <p>7:30 p.m. Tues. Opening Plenary – Dr. Martin Jacques 9:00 a.m. Wed. Plenary – Dr. Minxin Pei 9:50 a.m. Wed. Plenary – Dr. Elizabeth Economy 11:00 a.m. Wed. Roundtable Discussion</p> <p>Take notes on these sessions in order to prepare for the “Analyzing Opposing Views” essay that will be completed in class on Thursday, Sept. 24</p>
Th. Sept. 24	<p>In-Class Writing Assignment: Analyzing Opposing Views Essay]</p>
Tues. Sept. 29	Turnbull, “Zen and the Samurai” Selected Readings on Swordsmanship
Th. Oct. 1	Selected Readings on Swordsmanship
Tues. Oct. 6	Morris, “Kusunoki Masashige: Seven Lives for the Nation” Sato, “Kusunoki Masashige: A Guerilla of Unflinching Loyalty”
Th. Oct. 8	Turnbull, “Ninja” View YouTube film: “Ancient Warriors – Episode 19: Ninja Warriors of the Night”
Fri. Oct. 9	FYT Lab (Attendance Required)
Tues. Oct. 13	Rhetorical Analysis Essay due
Th. Oct. 15	!2:50 class is cancelled; evening session (time to be announced) in North Gym Sword demonstration (Attendance required)
Fri. Oct. 16	FYT Lab #4 (Attendance Required)
Tues. Oct. 20	Reflective Essay Due
Th. Oct. 22	Portfolio Workshop: Revision of Assignments
	Mid-Semester Break!
Th. Oct. 29	McClain, “The Tokugawa Polity” and “Bushido and Samurai Ethics” Sato, “Hojo Soun: Lord Soun’s Twenty-One Articles,” “ Miyamoto Musashi, Gorin no Sho,” and “Hagakure”
Fri. Oct. 30	FYT Lab #5 (Attendance Required)
Tues. Nov. 3	View YouTube: “Seven Samurai
Th. Nov. 5	Movie Review: Seven Samurai due
Tues. Nov. 10	Tyler, “Tomoe: Woman Warrior” Wright, “Female Combatants and Japan’s Meiji Restoration”

TH. Nov. 12	Argumentation Essay due
Fri. Nov. 13	FYT Lab #6 (Attendance Required)
Tues. Nov. 17	Selected Readings: Yoshida Shoin Library Research Skills - Class Meets in the Library, 2nd floor
Th. Nov. 19	Selected Readings: Fukuzawa Yokichi and Tsuda Umeko Preparation of Data Analysis and Argument Essay: Identify two scholarly articles on your topic
	Thanksgiving!
Tues. Dec. 1	Selected Readings: Kamikaze Fighters and Sararimen Preparation of Data Analysis and Argument Essay: read and annotate two scholarly articles on your research topic
Th. Dec. 3	In-Class Workshop: Preparation of Data Analysis and Argumentative Essay: draft essay In-class tutorials
Tues. Dec. 8	Data Analysis and Argumentative Essay due
Th. Dec. 10	Portfolio Revision - In-class tutorials
Tues. Dec. 15	Portfolio Revision - In-Class tutorial
Designated final exam period Fri. Dec. 18 11:00 am	In-class, written reflection on portfolio