

Week 1 The Ashikaga Legacy and the Tokugawa today. Why this class matters for understanding modern Japan. The legacy of Pre-Onin War Japanese culture.

Week 2 War and Warrior Culture. The age of war and the nature of the bushi and daimyo. War and warriors in reality and in literature.

Week 3 Ikko and Ikki during Sengoku. Peasants and townsmen in the age of war. Peasant organizations, popular Buddhism and local autonomy.

Week 4 Cultures of unification. Hideyoshi, the tea ceremony, and taming the samurai. Castles and the symbolism of power.

Week 5 Sankin Kotai. The Tokugawa order and its cultural and economic impact. The container society and its ideological justification.

Week 6 Chonin and urban life. Commercialization and the transformation of social relations. Sumo, burakumin, social control and the threat of disorder.

Week 7 Edo, Kyoto, Osaka and Chonin identity. The great cities and life on the Tokaido. Merchant academies, popular education and the emergence of a Chonin identity.

Week 8 Basho and the Chonin. Literary and cultural definitions of commoner status. Saikaku and the theater. Poetry networks, prints, and spreading urban culture.

Week 9 Women, Geisha and the Ukiyo-e. The floating world and commercialization. Mass production of culture. Commercialization as a threat to social order.

Week 10 Village practice. The village and its inhabitants. Elite and peasant understandings of rural life. Rural industry, rural poetry, and rise of the gono.

Week 11 Rebellion. Peasant and urban violence. Moral economy and understanding revolt. Chushigura and samurai discontent.

Week 12 Carnival of the Aliens. Dutch, Koreans, Ainu and the outside world. Understanding the Tokugawa in global context.

Week 13 Nativism. Understanding Japan, from Hayashi Razan to Motoori Norinaga to Oshio Heihachiro.

Week 14 Tempo and disaster. Famine, Russians, and the crisis of the Tokugawa order. Ecological problems and economic crisis.