



HIST19029 *Modern Japan*

Term 1 - 2023

Profile information current as at 14/12/2025 12:37 pm

All details in this unit profile for HIST19029 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

This unit will present a general overview of the major themes in modern Japanese history from the Tokugawa period to contemporary times. It will begin with a discussion of Japanese cultural traditions, followed by an overview of the Tokugawa period. The rest of the unit will explore: Meiji Japan, the era of Taisho and Showa democracy, the rise of militarism, World War II and the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, the American Occupation, contemporary Japanese politics, economy, society, environment and foreign policy. You will learn, for example, why Japan invaded China, attacked Pearl Harbour and occupied SE Asia, and what explains Japan's economic miracle. This unit is a great insight into Japan and will enhance your cultural understanding of Australia's most important trading partner.

Details

Career Level: *Undergraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 3*

Credit Points: 6

Student Contribution Band: 10

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: 0.125

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

Prerequisite: Minimum of 18 Units of Credit

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2023

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Undergraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

[Regional Campuses](#)

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

[Metropolitan Campuses](#)

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

2. **Presentation and Written Assessment**

Weighting: 30%

3. **Written Assessment**

Weighting: 40%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure – International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback – Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from 2022 SUTE Unit comments.

Feedback

Some students recommended more variety in the types of assessment and move away from three essays.

Recommendation

From 2024, Modern Japan will have a new Presentation assessment item. Students will be asked to present on a significant Japanese history question with a cogent and convincing argument.

Feedback from 2022 SUTE Unit comments.

Feedback

There was a student comment around wanting to engage with primary source documentation, and another comment around greater engagement in teaching. While the unit does contain some examples of primary sources and students are encouraged to read, analyse and use them, there is an opportunity to cater to both these comments at the same time with a prescribed activity via zoom on evaluating primary source documents. This will also be good pedagogy in terms of this unit soon becoming an AQF 8 unit.

Recommendation

Include a student activity of engaging with primary sources in Japanese history. While the activity itself will not be for assessment, the activity will be useful in the sense of using the analysis of primary sources for student essays and presentations.

Feedback from 2022 SUTE Unit comments.

Feedback

There was a student comment about keeping the unit content updated and general feedback where 'useful learning materials' requires improvement.

Recommendation

Continue to update the various learning materials and bring in more information specifically about Japan and the world over the last decade when there have been many changes to Japan's security needs particularly.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. an understanding of the major themes in modern Japanese history as well as contemporary Japanese politics, economy, society (including women and minorities), environment and foreign relations

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes



Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes
	1
1 - Written Assessment - 30%	•

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes
	1
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•
3 - Presentation and Written Assessment - 30%	•

Alignment of Graduate Attributes to Learning Outcomes

Graduate Attributes	Learning Outcomes
	1
1 - Communication	•
2 - Problem Solving	•
3 - Critical Thinking	•
4 - Information Literacy	•
5 - Team Work	•
6 - Information Technology Competence	
7 - Cross Cultural Competence	•
8 - Ethical practice	
9 - Social Innovation	
10 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures	

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Graduate Attributes

Assessment Tasks	Graduate Attributes									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 - Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•	•		•			
2 - Written Assessment - 40%	•	•	•	•	•		•			
3 - Presentation and Written Assessment - 30%	•	•	•	•	•		•			

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

HIST19029

Prescribed

A History Of Japan

2nd edition (2018)

Authors: Totman, C

John Wiley & Sons

London , UK

ISBN: 9781405123594

Binding: eBook

Additional Textbook Information

The textbook is freely available in the eReading List on Moodle. If you prefer your own copy, you can purchase one at the CQUni Bookshop here: <http://bookshop.cqu.edu.au> (search on the Unit code)

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)
- CQUniversity Library

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: [Turabian](#)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Michael Danaher Unit Coordinator

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Schedule

Week 1 - 06 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction	One	

Week 2 - 13 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Tokugawa Japan to the Black Ships	Two	

Week 3 - 20 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Imperial restoration and constitutional government: the Meiji era to 1889	Three	

Week 4 - 27 Mar 2023

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Enriching and strengthening: The Meiji era from 1890	Four	

Week 5 - 03 Apr 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Foundation or facade? Political crossroads: 1912-1932	Five	
Vacation Week - 10 Apr 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
		Assessment item 1 - Written Assignment Due: Vacation Week Wednesday (12 Apr 2023) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 6 - 17 Apr 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The rise of militarism: 1930-1941	Six	
Week 7 - 24 Apr 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
The Pacific war	Seven	
Week 8 - 01 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Defeat and occupation: 1945-1952	Eight	
Week 9 - 08 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Economic Japan	Nine	Assessment item 2 - Short Essay Due: Week 9 Friday (12 May 2023) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 10 - 15 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Affluent Japan	Ten	
Week 11 - 22 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Postwar politics and society	Eleven	
Week 12 - 29 May 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Japan and the world	Twelve	Assessment item 3 - Written Assignment Due: Week 12 Friday (2 June 2023) 11:30 pm AEST
Review/Exam Week - 05 Jun 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 12 Jun 2023		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Assessment item 1 - Written Assignment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You are to choose one essay from the list of topics and write a 2200 word essay, which must be referenced using the

Turabian referencing system. More details on this assessment piece, including the list of essay topics to choose from, are provided on Moodle (see Unit Assessment Details on Moodle).

Assessment Due Date

Vacation Week Wednesday (12 Apr 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Friday, 12 April, 2023

Return Date to Students

Within 12 days of receiving the essay.

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

The essay will be marked on the basis of your competency to:

- succinctly answer the question in the prescribed word count
 - explain the significance of historical events and processes
 - locate and use scholarly material relevant to Japanese History
 - effectively organise, analyse and synthesise historical evidence
 - craft a well-structured, coherent, well-expressed and properly referenced historical essay.
- All sources used must be appropriately acknowledged using the Turabian referencing style.

Referencing Style

- [Turabian](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- an understanding of the major themes in modern Japanese history as well as contemporary Japanese politics, economy, society (including women and minorities), environment and foreign relations

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Cross Cultural Competence

2 Assessment item 2 - Short Essay

Assessment Type

Presentation and Written Assessment

Task Description

Students are required to write one short essay.

The full details of this piece of assessment, including the choice of questions, are available on Moodle (see Unit Assessment Details on Moodle).

Assessment Due Date

Week 9 Friday (12 May 2023) 11:45 pm AEST

Friday, 12 May, 2023

Return Date to Students

The grade and feedback will be returned to students within 12 days of receiving the assignment.

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

The short essay will be marked on the basis of your competency to:

- succinctly answer the question in the prescribed word count
 - explain the significance of historical events and processes
 - locate and use scholarly material relevant to Japanese History
 - effectively organise, analyse and synthesise historical evidence
 - craft a well-structured, coherent, well-expressed and properly referenced historical essay.
- All sources used must be appropriately acknowledged using the Turabian referencing style.

Referencing Style

- [Turabian](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- an understanding of the major themes in modern Japanese history as well as contemporary Japanese politics, economy, society (including women and minorities), environment and foreign relations

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Cross Cultural Competence

3 Assessment item 3 - Written Assignment

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

You are to choose one essay from the list of topics and write a 2500 word essay, which must be referenced using the Turabian referencing system. More details on this assessment piece, including the list of essay topics to choose from, are provided on Moodle, under Unit Assessment Details.

Assessment Due Date

Week 12 Friday (2 June 2023) 11:30 pm AEST

Friday, 2 June, 2023.

Return Date to Students

This assessment will be returned within 12 days of receiving the assignment.

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

The essay will be marked on the basis of your competency to:

- succinctly answer the question in the prescribed word count
 - explain the significance of historical events and processes
 - locate and use scholarly material relevant to Japanese History
 - effectively organise, analyse and synthesise historical evidence
 - craft a well-structured, coherent, well-expressed and properly referenced historical essay.
- All sources used must be appropriately acknowledged using the Turabian referencing style.

Referencing Style

- [Turabian](#)

Submission

Online

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- an understanding of the major themes in modern Japanese history as well as contemporary Japanese politics, economy, society (including women and minorities), environment and foreign relations

Graduate Attributes

- Communication
- Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Team Work
- Cross Cultural Competence

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?

**Be Honest**

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own

**Seek Help**

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)

**Produce Original Work**

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem