

# SYLLABUS

## Patterns in Civilization: Death in Japan and Europe

506:113-01

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Office hours: Bell, Tue/Thu 2:30 -4; Roden, Fri 11:30 – 1:30

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Van Dyck 211 - CAC

Tue. & Thu. 4:30 – 5:50

**Bell's bio blurb:** <http://history.rutgers.edu/faculty-directory/96-bell-rudolph-m>

**Roden's bio blurb:** <http://history.rutgers.edu/faculty-directory/183-roden-donald>

**SAS Core Curriculum Goals** – This course fulfills 3 credits in the Historical (HST) subset of the Areas of Inquiry cluster

It meets the following specific SAS core curriculum goals:

H. Understand the bases and development of human and societal endeavors across time and place.

K. Explain the development of some aspect of a society or culture over time, including the history of ideas or history of science.

M. Understand different theories about human culture, social identity, economic entities, political systems, and other forms of social organization.

We look for mastery of these goals to be reflected in your journal entries and exams.

### **Guiding Statement**

Welcome to our course, Patterns in Civilization, a cross-cultural approach to the subject of global history. We shall focus this semester on death as a problem in the history of Europe and Japan from the moment these territories constituted themselves as autonomous civilizations, beginning with the eighth century, and continuing to the present.

Of all the Old World's civilizations, the two in least direct contact until the modern era were Europe and Japan, for they were separated geographically and culturally by Islam and China. That there should have been significant differences in the ways these two civilizations dealt with death needs less explanation, therefore, than the fact that there

were amazing similarities between them. How do we explain these similarities? What do they tell us about the process of historical explanation? To what extent may our introductory exploration of Japanese and European civilizations enrich our understanding of other societies, and of humanity in general?

## **Rules**

Although this is a large class, feel free to raise questions at any time. If you do not understand something, probably anywhere from 2 to 100 other students also are confused, so ask -- either on the spot, after class, or stop by during office hours. Also, freely use the class Chat Room on Sakai.

We encourage you to read the assigned texts and view the visual materials by the dates listed in the syllabus, and complete all written work as outlined below.

Attendance at lectures is expected. On ten random occasions during the semester we take attendance and each time you are present you receive an extra half-point (.5) on your final grade score (for a maximum total of five extra points). There are no exceptions, excuses, or alternatives since this is extra credit – but the effort of showing up gets rewarded significantly.

## **Self-Reporting of Absences**

In accordance with University policy, if you expect to miss a class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to us. Such reporting does NOT count toward the extra credit for being present in class that is explained in the general instructions above.

## **Special Needs**

Any student with special needs is urged to see us early in the semester to make the arrangements necessary to support a successful learning experience in this course.

## **Required Reading**

The following books are required for the course; they have been ordered at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore on Easton Ave and Somerset Street as well as at NJ Books on Easton Avenue. Prices shown below are Amazon for new books but you are free to search for used editions at a lower price, at little as \$.01. Using different editions with different page numbers is manageable but using different translations can be a real mess.

*The Inferno* by Dante Alighieri (Ciardi translation) (Signet [978-0451531391](#)) \$5.65.

*The White Hotel* by D. M. Thomas (Penguin [978-0140231731](#)) \$13.27

*The Setting Sun* by Osamu Dazai (Donald Keene translation) (New Directions [978-0811200325](#)) \$11.66

## **SAKAI**

In addition to the books above, you are required to read lots of materials posted on the SAKAI website. To access this website, you must have a valid Rutgers ID and password. This website also contains a chat room, class notes, maps, images, and your grades.

To get to this site:

1. Go to [sakai.rutgers.edu](http://sakai.rutgers.edu)
2. Enter your RU NetID and password
3. Click on tab for Death 2017
4. Choose from the list of tools on the left what you need: Announcements, Assignments, Chat Room, Gradebook2, Syllabus, and the Lessons in Roman numerals starting with "I. Backgrounds" where you will find readings, videos, class notes, and study guides.

## **Written Work and Grades**

30 % for journals (see below)

30 % for in-class midterm - standard 80-minute test using identifications and one big essay. You will be given six (6) quotations and the book or text from which each is drawn. For five (5) of these, in a paragraph or so, you will identify the author, the date, the historical setting, and the larger significance of the quotation as it relates to attitudes about death. The big essay will be cross-cultural and will emphasize Core Curriculum Goals.

40 % for the final exam - standard 3-hour test, using the same format: 5/6 identifications and one big essay, with emphasis primarily on material after the midterm.

A maximum of 5 points extra credit may be earned for attendance, one-half point (.5) for each time you are present when we randomly take attendance.

Grades on individual assignments are multiplied by the percentages shown above and then converted within Sakai Gradebook (a merciless but accurate recorder of grades) to RU grades as follows: 90-100=A; 85-89=B+; 80-84=B; 70-79=C+; 60-69=C, 0-59=F. There is no "curve", so you are encouraged to do as well as you possibly can. The "soft C" and absence of a D grade are intentional; there will be no exceptions to the grading standard written here.

**Journals** will be assigned without advance notice, due on Sakai by the beginning of the very next class, with no exceptions. There will be five journals, plus one make-up journal. They are the way we recognize students who are keeping up with the course, and they allow you to make a more personal but still intellectual response to individual course readings than is appropriate for the two in-class examinations.

Journal entries are 750-1000 words, done while consulting your readings and class notes but requiring no “research” or use of secondary sources, especially NOT the Internet. We are interested in YOU and in your reaction to what you have just read about some aspect of death. We have a zero tolerance policy on plagiarism and we use TurnItIn software to identify work that is not truly your own.

There are no allowances for lateness on journal entries. There will be a single “make-up” journal entry toward the end of the semester for anyone who missed one along the way but any other missing work will lower your grade accordingly. In short, if you want a good grade in this course you should come to class regularly and do the readings as assigned. Our hope is that keeping up in this way also means you will do well on the midterm and final examinations. Journal entries are graded on a 10-point scale and each is worth 6% of your overall grade or a total of 30%.

Journal entries are submitted only through Sakai using the Assignments tool.

Undergraduate student tutors for the class are: to be named. They are survivors of the Patterns in Civ: Love class in spring 2016; they will hold voluntary study sessions before the midterm and before the final, at times and places to be announced in class. They are also available throughout the semester by e-mail, at the SAKAI Chat Room, and at class to help you with questions and issues.

An advanced graduate student, to be named, will handle the journal entries, while Bell and Roden will grade both the mid-term and final exams, half the alphabet each.

**The schedule of lectures, films, and reading assignments is as follows:**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING</b>
Tues. Jan. 17	Introduction	
Thurs. Jan. 19	Judeo-Christian Tradition & Ancient Greco-Roman civilization	SAKAI – I.B.1,2,3 - Bible selections & Ancient G-R
Tues. Jan. 24	Feudal Europe	SAKAI – II.A.1 - <i>Song of Roland</i>
Thurs. Jan. 26	Christianity vs. Islam	SAKAI – II.A.1 - More <i>Song of Roland</i>
Tues. Jan. 31	European Cities	<i>The Inferno</i>
Thurs. Feb. 2	Life in Hell	More <i>Inferno</i>

Tues. Feb. 7	Plague	SAKAI – III.B.2,3 - Boccaccio
Thurs. Feb. 9	Christianity vs. Itself	SAKAI – III.B.4,5 - “Joan of Arc”
Tues. Feb. 14	Japanese Myth and Religion	SAKAI – I.A.1,2,3 Kojiki+Analects+Buddha
Thurs. Feb. 16	Japan’s Courtly Tradition I	SAKAI – III.A - <i>Tale of Genji</i>

Tues. Feb. 21	Japan’s Courtly Tradition II	SAKAI – III.A - More <i>Genji</i>
Thurs. Feb. 23	Japan’s Courtly Tradition III	Finish <i>Genji</i>
Tues. Feb. 28	Japan’s Samurai Tradition	SAKAI – II.A.2,3 - “Tales of Heike”
Thurs. Mar. 2	Public Death: King and Shogun	SAKAI – IV.A.1,2,3 - Louis XV and Ienobu
Tues. Mar. 7	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	Look for schedule of study sessions
Thurs. Mar. 9	Romantic Suicide	SAKAI – IV.B.2,3,4,5,6 - “Aida”, “La Boheme”
Mar. 14 and 16	SPRING BREAK	Enjoy life
Tues. Mar. 21	Man and Mad Science	SAKAI – IV.B.1 - <i>Frankenstein</i>
Thurs. Mar. 23	Romanticism, Friendship, and the New Self	SAKAI – V.A.1,2 - Kokoro
Tues. Mar. 28	The New Self and Suicide	SAKAI – V.A.3 - “Nogi”
Thurs. Mar. 30	Petty Death	SAKAI – V.C.1 - <i>The Death of Ivan Ilych</i>
Tues. Apr. 4	Great Death	SAKAI – V.C.2 - Duino Elegies
Thurs. Apr. 6	Sex, Freud, and Death	<i>The White Hotel</i> , prologue and parts 1-3; SAKAI V.C.3 – Freud
Tues. Apr. 11	Holocaust and Israel	<i>The White Hotel</i> , parts 4-6
Thurs. Apr. 13	Virility and Death	SAKAI – V.B.1,2 & V.C.4 Hemmingway & Mishima
Tues. Apr. 18	Ambiguous Death	Film “Ikiru” SAKAI – V.B.3 “Ikiru script selections”
Thurs. Apr. 20	Traditional Aesthetics and Modernism	<i>The Setting Sun</i>
Tues.	Great and Petty Death in Japan	More <i>Setting Sun</i>

Apr. 25		
Thurs. Apr. 27	Concluding Observations	
	FINAL EXAM – IDs AND A MAJOR ESSAY COMPARING POST-MIDTERM TEXTS FROM EUROPE AND JAPAN	Look for schedule of study sessions.