HISTORY 471: NOT JUST GEISHA: WOMEN IN JAPANESE HISTORY, 1600-1952

JANICE MATSUMURA
Office AQ 6241 (778) 782-5814; E-mail: jmatsumu@sfu.ca

Course Description:

This course covers the history of Japan from 1600 until the mid-20th century with a focus on the economic, social, cultural and political contributions of women. Although the instructor will provide background information on certain topics, students are required to report on assigned readings and both lead and participate in discussion.

Students requiring accommodation because of disabilities are advised to contact the Centre for Students with Disabilities.

Manual of Readings (available at the bookstore)


Learning Outcomes

Students may at the end of the course have constructed for themselves a “history of Japanese women.” However, the primary goal of this course is to provide them with an opportunity to re-examine the narratives often found in textbooks on Japanese history through the specific topic of women.

Grading:

***FAILURE TO COMPLETE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS (e.g. failure to attend seminars or submit written assignments) WILL RESULT IN A FAILURE IN THE COURSE.

1. Seminar participation 30%
   Students will be expected to have done the required weekly readings and to be able to participate in discussion about them.
   Students must prepare two comments or “opinion pieces” on EACH of readings
for the week. They should keep one copy for group discussion and submit another copy to the instructor. Although no specific mark will be given to these short assignments, they constitute an important part of the grade for participation.

**OUTLINE THE MAIN ARGUMENT OF THE ARTICLE. HOW DOES THE AUTHOR SUPPORTS HIS/HER ARGUMENT? ARE YOU CONVINCED? IF NOT, WHY NOT?**


Students will be expected to discuss the themes or issues that they will be examining as well as provide a list of books and articles (at least 7 sources – no textbooks!) to be used in the essay. You will add to this list as you continue your research.

A printed copy of the essay must be submitted. The instructor does not recognize or accept copies submitted through the e-mail.


Students will be penalized for failing to correctly cite written sources of information. A printed copy of the essay must be submitted. The instructor does not recognize or accept copies submitted through the e-mail.

4. A 2-3 (double-spaced) Page Take-Home Final Examination  

Students will have one week to complete this assignment.

**POLICY FOR LATE SUBMISSIONS OF ESSAYS**

Each day that an assignment is late, a grade of half a mark will be deducted. For example, your assignment might be worthy of the grade of A, but if it is a day late, you will receive the grade of A- and, if it is two days late, you will receive the grade of B+. **STUDENTS HAVE ONLY THE FIRST WEEK AFTER THE DUE DATE TO SUBMIT LATE ASSIGNMENTS. NO ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE FIRST WEEK OF A DUE DATE.**