

Endterm Study Guide

The endterm exam for this class will consist of five keywords (30%; 15 points), one document commentary (30%; 15 points), and one essay (40%; 20 points).

The keyword responses (in class, Dec. 11) should aim at not only simply identifying the item and placing it in its approximate time if appropriate; they should also, more importantly, provide a succinct explanation of the item's historical significance. In other words, what does it exemplify about the society, culture, politics, economy of the time?

The document commentary (in class Dec. 11) is essentially an expanded keyword response based on an excerpt of a primary document. You will be asked to identify and provide a brief commentary and analysis of an unidentified passage from a translated primary source that we have read (*In Praise of Shadows*, *Memories of Silk and Straw*, *On-line Readings*, and handouts). You should point out what is being referred to within the passage and, as in the keyword responses, offer some ideas about its historical significance. Refer to previous "Tips for Document Commentary."

The essay (take-home, handed out in class Dec. 11 and due via email as a Word or RTF attachment by Noon Dec. 18th) is your opportunity to synthesize and analyze the course material in relation to a specific question, issue, or scenario. It will involve a large conceptual theme or issues drawn from material throughout the course. Some of the themes and issues that would be worth considering as you study are:

- The form and extent of political participation in prewar 20th-century Japan.
- Inequalities among individuals and social groups within Japan's modern development.
- Attempts to define Japanese cultural identity within modernity.
- The rationale behind Japan's colonial conquests in Asia and the reactions (positive and negative) that they provoked.
- The origins and forms of left- and right-wing radicalism in the 1920s/1930s.
- The factors behind Japan's decision to wage war in Asia and the Pacific.
- The impact of war and occupation on the Japanese populace.
- And more!

It goes without saying that success on the exam lies in having paid attention to readings and lectures, having processed their contents, and being able to demonstrate this mastery through articulate responses.

Bring empty blue books and full brains for the keywords and documentary on Wednesday, Dec. 11th!