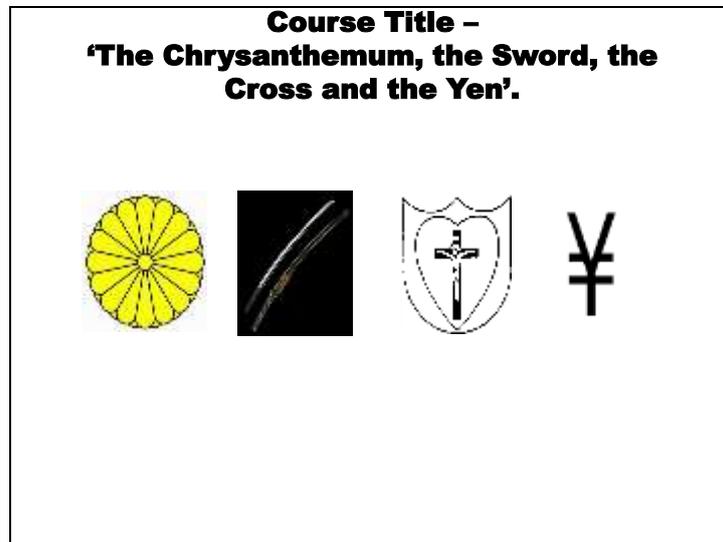


Slide 1

**Japanese History Course –  
House Keeping Matters**

## Slide 2



### Notes

Because of their unique culture and lifestyle, the people of Japan provide a fascinating topic of study with a history full of interesting and turbulent events that began in ancient times, and continued through the medieval period and on into the modern era.

My reason for choosing the course title '**The Chrysanthemum, the Sword, the Cross and the Yen**' is because each of the four symbols depicted in the above slide denotes an aspect of Japanese society that has contributed significantly to the country's rich and tumultuous history. And each of them will also provide a focus for our studies during the semester.

Slide 3



Notes

One reason that makes an understanding of Japanese history more difficult than it needs to be is that various eras, periods and events are frequently referred to by more than one title or heading.

## Slide 4

For example, historians refer to Japan's first Shogunate as the **Kamakura Shogunate** (based on where the Shogun lived at Kamakura).

Alternatively it is referred to as the **Minamoto Shogunate** (based on Shoguns family surname).

In the case of the three Shogunates I use the **family surnames**.

## Slide 5

A second example is provided where significant events in Japan's history are also referred to by different headings.

Japanese historians refer to the **Sengoku Era** (1467 AD > 1603 AD) which literally means the *'Warring States Period'*.

With this and in similar situations I will normally use the English translations.

## Slide 6

### **Some Concepts Changed Over Time**

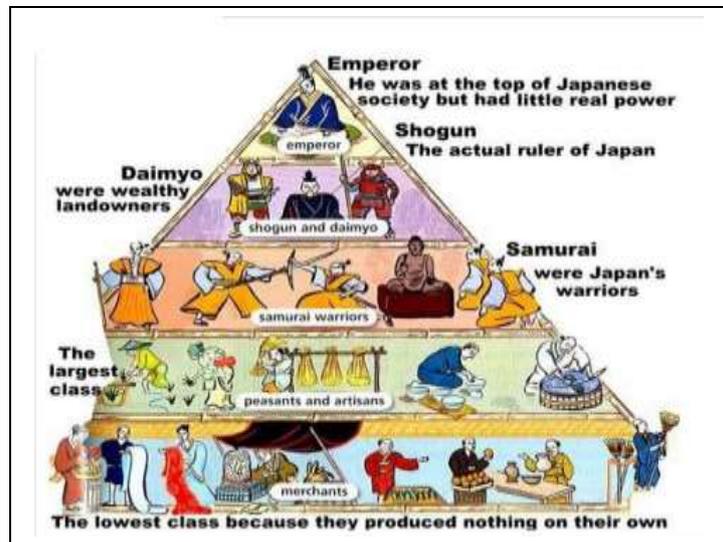
However the roles and functions of the Samurai changed / evolved over time. For example the role played by a Samurai in 7<sup>th</sup> century Japan was quite different to the part played by a Samurai warrior of the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, while their role underwent further change in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### Notes

Japan has a long history going back to about 600 BC or nearly 3000 years, and over such a long period of time some things necessarily changed and evolved.

For example, it will be necessary to understand the key roles and functions played by Japan's Samurai warrior class in the country's history.

## Slide 7



## Notes

Likewise we will discover that the role and functions of Japan's farmer and merchant classes also changed over time as the Japanese Social Hierarchy was modified.

## **A Japanese Glossary**

**Some Japanese Terms we will learn about and frequently use:**

- **Daimyo**
- **Bakufu**
- **Giri**
- **Koku**
- **Cho**
- **Han**

### **Notes**

In any study of Japanese history one will inevitably come across many Japanese words and terms, and an appreciation of some of them is necessary for developing an understanding of the country and its people.

When using special Japanese words throughout the course I will attempt to explain them in some detail, and I suggest that a 'Glossary' of those Japanese words and their meanings be maintained in the rear section of your Notebook.

## Slide 9



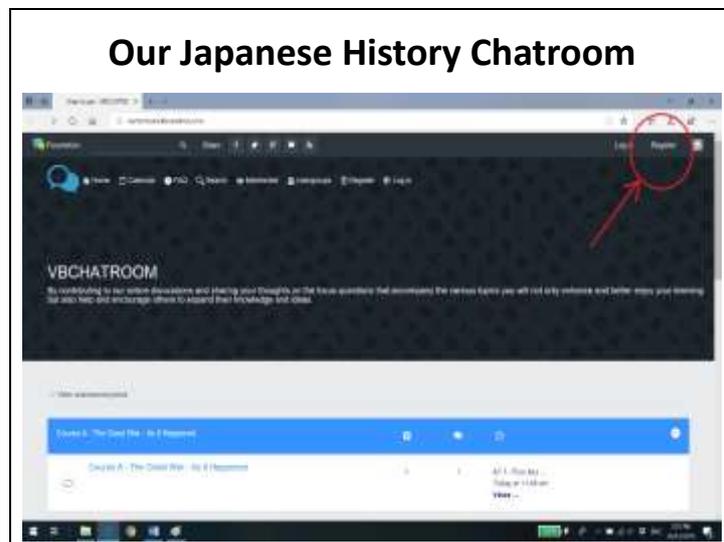
### Notes

Since 1900 numerous movies have been made about various eras and aspects of Japanese history.

It is my intention to incorporate a number of selected films into the course to supplement the theory by visually illustrating some of the key themes of the studies.

To allow for film activities to be completed without interruption I have requested a weekly class time slot of three hours duration, while anticipating however that 'theory lessons' will only go for about two hours.

## Slide 10



### Vince Black Chat Room - Registration Process

Go to website:

[www.vbchatroom.forumotion.com](http://www.vbchatroom.forumotion.com)

Go to Register:

Enter your details and create a unique password

Accept confirmation by clicking on the link sent to your email

You are now ready to go. Good luck and enjoy the course.