

ASAN 750J  
Spring 2005

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Hours: (as much as possible) Tuesday, 2-4 PM; Wednesday, 10-noon; or by appointment

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## Overview

The purpose of ASAN 750J is to help students develop the skills necessary to conduct advanced research in Japanese Studies. More narrowly, it is to get students started on the research project requirement of the Japanese Studies MA (i.e., a master's thesis or Plan B research paper) and the Japanese Studies Certificate, or a comparable Japan-related graduate research project in another program. In line with this, it is a writing- and research-intensive course in which students will have the opportunity to:

- A. become familiar with extant thinking and approaches in a chosen subject area;
- B. write a major literature review paper in a chosen subject area;
- C. develop oral presentation skills in a seminar setting;
- D. prepare a proposal for a research project;
- E. prepare a research paper based on your proposal, and
- F. receive feedback on your work from fellow students and the instructor.

In order to accomplish the above, we will work step-by-step, with each student pursuing an independent research project of his/her own choosing. Writing assignments and class activities will break down the process into a sequence of stages and allow the student to obtain feedback from the instructor and/or fellow students at each stage.

I prefer to let a class take its course rather than schedule each meeting down to the minute. But here are the main tasks in the order we will be working on them. After I get to know your interests, I will assign smaller tasks here and there to supplement these. We will discuss in class how we will share our work.

## Activities and Tasks

### 1. Initial formulation of research problem (first week)

**Readings:** Booth, et al, pp. ix-27, 29-63, 234-258

**Written Assignment:** Draft an initial Aintroduction@ to your research paper using the discussion on pages 234-255 of Booth, et al, as a guide. Distribute to instructor and other students before relevant class meeting on January 21st.

**Other:** Students doing a social sciences research project may find the following useful:

Stephen Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science* (Cornell UP, 1997), pp. 49-88.

## 2. Sources (two weeks or so)

**Readings:** Booth et al., 64-84 (consult 271-288); Howell and Prevenier, 17-69.

**Written Assignment:** After reading the assigned sections of the text, develop a strategy for locating relevant sources for your research project. Then explain your strategy and its rationale in a short 1-2 page write-up.

**Other:** The following works might also help.

Peter Burke, *Eyewitnessing: The Uses of Images as Historical Evidence* (Cornell UP, 2001)

*A Guide to Reference Works for Japanese Studies*. Tokyo: International House of Japan Library, 1997

Makino, Yasuko & Saito Masaei, *A Student Guide to Japanese Sources in the Humanities*. Ann Arbor: Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 1994.

Webb, Herschel, *Research in Japanese Sources: A Guide*. Ann Arbor: Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan, 1994.

UH Library Japan web page (access to JStor, etc.)

## 3. Annotated Bibliography

**Written Assignment:** Compile an annotated bibliography of a minimum of 10 key sources (at least two of which must be in Japanese) that you will be utilizing in your paper. Under each citation, include a paragraph describing the content of the source and how it fits into your research project.

## 4. Literature Review (Several weeks)

**Written Assignment:** First, identify several key works B roughly two or three books or five or six articles B related to your topic of research for use in a literature review essay. These should be works that are representative of prior research on your topic or else highlight methodological issues involved in pursuing research in your chosen area. Then, prepare a one-page outline listing these works and giving a sentence or two for each describing its role in your literature review. The final step B and this will become an element of your final paper B is to write an essay, analyzing your chosen works in terms of the key theoretical and/or methodological and/or factual issues that will frame your research project.

**Other:** The following examples of literature reviews in various fields may help you decide how to proceed.

- (literature) Janet Goff, "The Pleasure of Reading the Genji,@ *Journal of Japanese Studies* 17-2 (Summer 1991): 345-358.

- (history) Paul Anderer, A Brave New History,@ *Journal of Japanese Studies* 20-2 (Summer 1994): 459-476.

- (social science/history), "Three Paths to Enlightenment About Aum Shinrikyo," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 27-1 (Winter 2001): 143-152.
- (social science/history) Andre Schmid, "Colonialism and the Korea Problem" in the *Historiography of Modern Japan: A Review Article*, @ *Journal of Asian Studies* 59-4 (November 2000): 951-976

## **5. An Outline of your paper**

**Readings:** Booth, et al, pp. 85-154

**Written Assignment:** Using the description in Booth, et al, (pp. 152-54) as a guide, prepare a combined point-based and topic outline of your proposed paper.

## **6. Paper Proposal (one week)**

**Readings:** to be distributed

**Written Assignment:** Prepare a formal proposal for your research topic.

## **7. Visual Presentation (one or two weeks)**

**Readings:** Booth et al., 175-198

**Assignment:** Prepare a visual presentation of some aspect of your project and use it as the centerpiece of a 10-15 minute presentation of your research project to the class.

## **8. Independent research, and revision of your outline (class meetings may be curtailed)**

**Readings:** Booth, et al, pp. 155-174

**Activity:** Revise your outline on the basis of feedback from instructor and fellow students. Begin research for the paper.

## **9. Research paper draft (roughly one month before end of semester)**

**Assignment:** Turn in a draft of your final paper.

## **10. Paper revisions**

**Readings:** Booth et al., 201-233.

**Assignment:** Revise paper based on instructor comments.

## **11. Final paper presentations**

**Assignment:** Make a 15 minute presentation of your paper to the class. Final version of the paper will be due on May 10 (Monday).

## References

### Required texts:

Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams, *The Craft of Research*, University of Chicago Press, 1995.

Society of Writers Editors and Translators, ed., *Japan Style Sheet : The SWET Guide for Writers, Editors and Translators*, rev. ed., Stone Bridge Press, 1998.

### Style Guides:

John Grossman, ed., *Chicago Manual of Style*, 14th ed., University of Chicago Press, 1993.

Janice R. Walker and Todd Taylor, *The Columbia Guide to Online Style*, Columbia University Press, 1998.

### Guides to the Research Process:

S. Joseph Levine, *A Writing and Presenting Your Thesis or Dissertation*.@ Available at the website <http://www.canr.msu.edu/aee/dissthes/guide.htm>

David Madsen, *Successful Dissertations and Theses: A Guide to Graduate Student Research from Proposal to Completion*, 2nd ed., San Francisco and Oxford: Jossey Bass, 1992, pp. 51-81, 40-158.

Peter Phelan and Peter Reynolds, *Argument and Evidence: Critical Analysis for the Social Sciences*, London and New York: Routledge, 1996, pp. 127-147.

David Sternberg, *How to Complete and Survive a Doctoral Dissertation*, St. Martin's Press, 1981), Chapter 4 (AThe Dissertation Proposal"). 72-108.