

SOC390 History of Fukui Prefecture Area

3rd and 4th quarters, Junior

Instructors	KIMURA RYO, HASEGAWA YASUKO
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

Through lectures on the basic historical events and trends shaping Fukui Prefecture, students will acquire knowledge about the region's history as an important resource for contributing to regional revitalization.

Over the first half of the course, lectures will deal with trends in Echizen in the context of the formative processes of medieval and early modern society, focusing variously on Nitta Yoshisada and the civil war between the Northern and Southern courts, the uprising of the *ikkō ikki*, the rule and eventual downfall of the Asakura clan, and the establishment of the shogunal domain from the Oda-Toyotomi regime through to the enfeoffment of Matsudaira Hideyasu.

In the second half, lectures will deal with Fukui Prefecture over the modern and contemporary period, focusing in turn on political trends from the end of the shogunate period leading to the establishment of Fukui Prefecture, the transition from the establishment of modern parliamentary politics to contemporary prefectural politics and governance, and the expansion of the textile industry that became the prefecture's main industry following the establishment of the habutae (thin, soft, and durable Japanese silk) industry in the mid-Meiji period.

Course Objectives

- (1) To understand the features and transformations of Echizen's politics and society during the transition from the medieval to the early modern period as the starting point of the region's contemporary regional formation.
- (2) Through an understanding of the processes leading to the establishment of Fukui Prefecture in the modern era and its subsequent political and economic transitions, to understand the nature of the Fukui region's historical development through the modern and contemporary periods, as well as the challenges it has faced.

Expected Outcomes

- (1) By gaining an understanding of the historical development of the Fukui region that is based in an objective perspective informed by accurate historical facts, to learn fundamental attitudes for the study of history.
- (2) To gain insights for thinking about current challenges facing Fukui Prefecture in light of historical events.

Prerequisites

Introduction to Global and Community Studies, Introduction to Sociology, Overview of Japanese History, Theory of Local Economy

Class Materials

(Textbooks)

Hayata Yoshihiko et al. *Fukui-ken no rekishi* (History of Fukui Prefecture), Yamakawa Shuppan, 2000.

(Supplementary Materials)

Fukui-ken, *Fukui-ken shi tsūshi-hen 2-6* (Fukui Prefectural History: General History vols. 2-6).

Fukui-ken, *Zusetsu Fukui-ken shi* (Illustrated Fukui Prefectural History).

(Both supplementary materials may be accessed at the website of the Fukui Prefectural Archives)

Course Method

Classes will be conducted after distribution of summaries and other handouts.

Evaluation/Assessment

Evaluation will be based on short quizzes posted to the Student Portal Website after each class as well as the final exam.

Grading

20%	Short Quizzes
80%	Final Exam

Course Schedule

Week 1: Echizen and the Civil War between the Northern and Southern Courts

Learning about the life of Nitta Yoshisada, who died in battle in Echizen during the civil war between the Northern and Southern Courts based on the *Taiheiki* (Chronicle of Great Peace) and other historical materials.

Week 2: Echizen and the Ōnin War

Learning about the movements of the Asakura clan during the Ōnin War (1467–1477) and the formative processes by which the Asakura clan became feudal rulers (*daimyō*) during the Sengoku Period.

Week 3: Territorial Rule in Echizen by the Asakura Daimyo in the Sengoku Period

Learning about the characteristics of the Asakura clan's territorial control of Echizen, with a focus on the provincial legal code (*bunkokuhō*) established by Asakura Takakage.

Week 4: Echizen Ichijōdani and the Asakura clan

Learning about the structure of the castle town of Ichijōdani, now a nationally designated special historic site, and the lives of its historical residents.

Week 5: Echizen under the Oda Regime

Learning about the rule of Echizen by the Oda regime while comparing the differences and characteristics of territorial rule before and after the disturbance of the Echizen *ikkō ikki*.

Week 6: Echizen under Toyotomi Regime and the Establishment of Fukui domain

Along with acquiring a basic familiarity with the feudal rulers who divided and conquered Echizen after the fall of Shibata Katsuie, learning about the cadastral survey that served as the basis for the rule of Echizen by the Toyotomi regime and the background leading to the formation of Fukui domain by Matsudaira Hideyasu.

Week 7: Rennyō and the Echizen *ikkō ikki*

Learning about the achievements of the monk Rennyō, who was based in Yoshizaki in Echizen, and the background leading to the development of the uprising of the Echizen *ikkō ikki*.

Week 8: An Overview of Fukui Domain in the Early Modern Period

Acquiring basic familiarity with the transitions involved in domain politics after the establishment of Fukui domain and the founding of the various domains in the Fukui prefectural region.

Week 9: Fukui Domain at the End of the Feudal Period

Learning about the activities of Matsudaira Yoshinaga at the end of the feudal period and the particulars of the domain political reforms carried out under his leadership (during the Ansei and Bunkyū eras, 1854–1864).

Week 10: The Founding of Fukui Prefecture and the Genesis of the Reihoku-Reinan Problem

Understanding the processes leading to the founding of the current Fukui Prefecture in 1881 and the longstanding issue of the Reihoku-Reinan problem that came about as a result.

Week 11: Public Unrest in the Course of Founding Fukui Prefecture

Learning about conflicts between regional society and the central government during the transition to modernity through the two case studies of the Tsuruga Prefecture Tri-District Farmer's Riot (also known as the Great Echizen Riot in Defense of Buddhist Doctrine) and popular opposition to land tax amendments (the Echizen Freedom and People's Rights Movement).

Week 12: Politics and Governance in Fukui Prefecture after the Establishment of Modern Parliamentary Government (Prewar)

Learning about changes to Fukui Prefecture's politics and society under the pre-war parliamentary political system.

Week 13: Politics and Governance in Postwar Fukui Prefecture

Learning about postwar regional developments and the characteristics of politics and governance in Fukui Prefecture in the context of the formation of an "affluent regional society" from the 1970s.

Week 14: The Establishment of the Export-oriented *habutae* Textile Industry

Understanding the unique characteristics and background behind the establishment of the export-oriented *habutae* textile industry, which became a starting point for economic development in the Reihoku area of Fukui Prefecture, which specializes in long-fiber textile production.

Week 15: The Evolution of the Export-oriented *habutae* Textile Industry

Understanding the characteristics of the industrial clusters brought by prosperity of the export-oriented *habutae* textile industry.

Preparation and Follow-up

Preparation: Before class, students should prepare by reading the lecture summaries posted on the Student Portal Website and the relevant portions of the assigned text (about 1 hour).

Follow-up: After class, students should review the contents of the lecture before answering short quizzes posted on the Student Portal Website (about 1 hour).