INR 3223: Japan and the US
Exam 1 Study Guide

1. General

• Exam 1 will consist of two sections: concept identification and short essays
• ID questions may include significant people, places, agreements, events or other concepts drawn from the first part of the course; you will be allowed to choose from a list of terms to identify.
• Essay questions will address themes such as those discussed below

2. Feudal History

• What were the most important influences on the development of premodern Japanese culture?
• How did the feudal unification of Japan influence its later development? Why did the Tokugawa system start to break down?

3. Modernization

• How did Japan and the US meet?
• How did Japan pursue modernization? What were its most important objectives in modernizing, and what strategies did it use to achieve them? What things did Meiji-era Japanese leaders consider to be characteristic of a modern state?
• How did modernization affect Japan’s foreign relations?

4. Imperialism and War

• Why did Taisho-era experiments with democracy gradually give way to authoritarianism?
• Was conflict between Japan and the US inevitable? Why did Japan attack the US?
• Why did the US decide to use its first atomic bombs against Japan?

5. Japanese Security

• Under what constitutional constraints do Japan's Self Defense Forces operate today?
• How has the Japan-US defense relationship evolved? What are the main objectives of the alliance today?
• To what extent should the US maintain military bases in Japan today?

6. Trouble Spots

• What forces are pushing Taiwan toward independence? What forces work against Taiwanese independence? What should the United States do if Taiwan declares independence?
• How should the US respond to the prospect of North Korean weapons of mass destruction? How should Japan respond?