Instructor: Professor Mark McNally
Course: History 423: Okinawa
Location: Online (Laulima)
Day/Time: Asynchronous (no meetings as a class)
Semester: Spring 2021

Required TEXTS: Readings for the course will be in PDF form and uploaded to “Sources” on Laulima. There are no books for purchase. The readings will be drawn from the following texts:

Bollinger, Threshold of a Closed Empire
Hein and Selden, Islands of Discontent
Kerr, Okinawa: A History of an Island People
Rabson, The Okinawan Diaspora in Japan
Smits, Visions of Ryūkyū
A Survey of the History and Culture of Okinawa
Turnbull and Hook, The Samurai Capture a King

Course DESCRIPTION: This course covers the major developments of Okinawan history from prehistoric to contemporary times. The focus is on the political, social, cultural, and religious aspects of change for the period.

Course REQUIREMENTS: 32 Daily Responses (50-word discussion postings, twice weekly) ; 16 Weekly Reflections (1-page essays, weekly); a midterm essay exam; a final essay exam.

TOPICS:
Unit 1: Prehistory and Ancient Ryūkyū
Unit 2: The Rise of the Second Shō Dynasty and the Reign of King Shō Shin
Unit 3: The Age of Prosperity
Unit 4: The Conquest of Miyako, Yaeyama, and Amami; Ryūkyūan Cultural Developments
Unit 5: The Satsuma Invasion
Unit 6: Ryūkyū Under Satsuma’s Domination
Unit 7: Change and Reform
Unit 8: The Ryūkyūan Status System
Unit 9: Political Institutions and Sai On
Unit 10: Rural Society
Unit 11: The Economy and Culture of Early Modern Ryūkyū
Unit 12: The Arrival of the Westerners
Unit 13: Okinawa and Meiji Japan
Unit 14: World War II and the American Occupation
Unit 15/16: The Reversion to Japan