

HIST 392 Paper #3 Warrior Society

Making specific reference to our readings on warrior society, use the Forty-Seven Ronin story to explore the organization of power in warrior society. Pay special attention to your thesis statement and first paragraph. (Take a look at Joseph Williams's *Style* if you are still unsure on this). A good statement will tell you how to write the rest of the paper because everything else must relate to that statement. A weak or "empty" thesis statement will not be able to exert this kind of control over the paper and your writing can easily degenerate into a list of stuff you know about samurai—this sort of paper will be harshly graded.

NOTE: your thesis statement must contain the following three terms:

public/private/violence

Begin by exploring the *multiple meanings* and *historical definitions* of these terms. Webster's cannot help you here. The best theses will show a detailed, historically-specific sense of tension between the terms. Use your papers to explore this tension, not to write it out of existence—that's not really possible here. A thesis with internal tension between the terms is also a way to avoid writing a list.

Scholars should reflect deeply on the true nature of these words.

Other Requirements:

- You must also use *at least four* sources from our readings. This is NOT to be a summary of the Forty-Seven Ronin Incident—we have done that in class already. You are to say something about the organization of power in warrior society.
- This is our third paper and footnotes will be graded more harshly than before. Poor citations in substance or form will result in explicitly lower grades this time.
- Grammar, spelling, and structure will also be graded more explicitly as well.

Due at the start of class 9:05 Monday 22 October—as announced on the syllabus, papers are deemed "one-day late" at 9:15 Monday.

Some of the sources we have looked at, there are more, not to mention class discussions:

Totman textbook
Ikeda Shinobu
Hitomi Tonomura
The Ten-Foot Square Hut
Tales of the Heike
The Fully Apparent Case
Hagakure
Chushingura (Keene translation)
Debates on the Ako Vendetta
Chushingura (Mizoguchi film)

I have added a piece from Yamaga Soko—his thought is mentioned several times in the Debates