

JAPAN: ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE
AEAJ 170 (Class No. 11452)
Spring 2010

Class Time and Location: TTh 1:15 – 2:35 in SS133

Instructor: Mark Blum

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ERes login: heritage

Textbooks:

EAJI70 Course Reader sold only at Mary Jane Books (located at the corner of Western & Quail)
Japanese Culture by Paul Varley (4th ed., Univ. of Hawaii, 2000) sold at Mary Jane Books & campus bookstore

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce the major themes of what we regard today as Japanese culture. We will progress chronologically from the ancient past to the present, looking at Japan in a variety of ways: historically, anthropologically, religiously, philosophically, artistically, musically, politically, etc. In the process the student will have the opportunity to sample well-known works of literature that represent all these aspects of Japan. Because of the broad nature of the topic, the core curriculum will be defined by the lectures themselves, with the readings providing supplemental information. Hence attendance is mandatory and will be taken daily to ensure all classes are attended. Because a paper of 1500 words in length based on Japanese themes is required, good students will want to begin thinking about their topic and start their research early in the semester.

General Education Information:

This course fulfills the General Education Categories of **Humanities** and **Regions Beyond Europe**.

Characteristics of *all* General Education Courses

- 1 General Education courses offer introductions to the central topics of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
- 2 General Education courses offer explicit rather than tacit understandings of the procedures, practices, methodology and fundamental assumptions of disciplines and interdisciplinary fields.
- 3 General Education courses recognize multiple perspectives on the subject matter.
- 4 General Education courses emphasize active learning in an engaged environment that enables students to be producers as well as consumers of knowledge.
- 5 General Education courses promote critical inquiry into the assumptions, goals, and methods of various fields of academic study; they aim to develop the interpretive, analytic, and evaluative competencies characteristic of critical thinking.

Learning Objectives for General Education *Humanities* Courses

Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse

systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect.

Humanities courses enable students to demonstrate knowledge of the assumptions, methods of study, and theories of at least one of the disciplines within the humanities.

Depending on the discipline, humanities courses will enable students to demonstrate some or all of the following:

- 1 an understanding of the objects of study as expressions of the cultural contexts of the people who created them
- 2 an understanding of the continuing relevance of the objects of study to the present and to the world outside the university
- 3 an ability to employ the terms and understand the conventions particular to the discipline
- 4 an ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along with the reasons or arguments that can be given for and against them
- 5 an understanding of the nature of the texts, artifacts, ideas, or discourse of the discipline and of the assumptions that underlie this understanding, including those relating to issues of tradition and canon

Objectives for General Education *Regions Beyond Europe* Courses

Approved courses engage students in considerations of the "local" as opposed to the "global." Courses focus on specific cultures (other than those of the United States) or the world's regions. Courses emphasize the features and processes whereby cultures and regions gain their specific identity, offering an explicitly historical organization (i.e., one that emphasizes the narratives whereby any given region or culture has come to gain its specific identity), and balancing topical focus and chronological breadth (i.e., considering a topic of sufficient specificity for the course to be coherent, but over a period of time long enough to ensure that the relevant historical dynamic is clearly visible).

Grading:

There will be both mid-term and final exams that will require short answers and/or brief essays. A 1500-word paper (5 to 6 pages) is also required, which will be collected in two installments, to be considered initial and final drafts of the same paper.

Unscheduled Quizzes	10%
5 Page Paper	30%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Classwork	10%

Grading is not on a curve, and **no extra credit will be assigned or accepted.** Grades will follow a strict percentage scale: 93-100 = A, 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; 0-59 = E. A grade of "Incomplete" will not be considered except in cases of extreme emergencies (death in the family, extreme illness) and will require some sort of documentation. Merely not completing one's work is not grounds for receiving an Incomplete grade. Please do not hesitate to come see me about any problems concerning the lectures, readings, grades, attendance, or your ability to complete the required work. If you anticipate a potential problem, you must come see me **in advance.**

Class Schedule: Readings are primarily from the *Course Reader* (CR) listed by name and number of article, from *Japanese Culture* (JC). Other materials will be supplemented as Electronic Reserve files to be downloaded from the university library ERes site.

	Date	Topic	CR	JC
1	1.21	Introduction to the course		
2	1.26	(Literature) 1.1 Early Poetry	(1) (2) (3)	42-47, 56-61
3	1.28	1.2 <i>The Tale of Genji</i>	(4)	64-68, 216-217, 313
4	2.2	1.3 Setsuwa: <i>Tales of Times Past & Tales from Uji</i>	(5) (6)	<0>
5	2.4	1.4 <i>An Account of My Hermitage & The Tale of the Heike</i>	(7) (8)	80-82, 91-93
6	2.9	1.5 Edo period literature: greed, lust, humor, & haiku	(9) (10)	183-186, 193-197
7	2.11	1.6 Modern literature sample: Tanizaki Junichiro	(11)	279-282
	2.16	Holiday – No Class		
8	2.18	(Visual Arts) 2.1 Ancient & Medieval Sculpture	(12) (13)	26-42
9	2.23	2.2 Ancient & Medieval Painting	(14) (15) (16)	84-89, 129-139, 152-160
10	2.25	2.3 Edo period art of the floating world: prints, pottery	(17)	197-204
11	3.2	2.4 Images of Emperor Meiji	(18)	<0>
12	3.4	2.5 Magazines & Mass Culture in 1920s	(19)	197-204
13	3.9	2.6 Manga in history and today	(20)	346-349
14	3.11	Midterm Exam		
15	3.16	(Ideas & Forms) 3.1 Pre-continental culture, Shinto	(20) (21) (22)	8-18
16	3.18	3.2 Buddhist temples as sacred space	(23)	28-33, 38-42
17	3.23	3.3 Dōgen & Zen Aesthetics; Gardens	(24) (25) (26)	134-139
18	3.25	3.4 Hōnen & Picture-Scroll Biographies	(27)	98-99
	3.30	Holiday – No Class		
	4.1	Holiday – No Class		
19	4.6	3.5 The City of Kyoto	(28)	<0>
20	4.8	3.6 Meiji Intellectuals: Fukuzawa Yukichi & Meirokusha	(29)	ch.9: <u>242-244</u> , <u>249-250</u>
21	4.13	(Performing Arts) 4.1 Shinto Performance Ritual	(30)	113
22	4.15	4.2 Buddhist Preaching as Performance	(31) (32)	187
23	4.20	4.3 Nō Theater & Kitayama Culture	(33)	113-120
24	4.22	4.4 Tea Ceremony	(34)	124-129, 160-163
25	4.27	4.5 Bunraku Puppet Theater & Kabuki	(35)	186-193
26	4.29	4.6 Postmodern Theater: Butō & Takarazuka	(36) (37)	294-295
27	5.4	Review		
	5.13*	Final Exam at *1:00PM – 3:00PM		