

EAJ170 (Course Number 5957, 3 credits)
JAPAN: ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE
Spring 2023
Mondays & Wednesdays 1:10 p.m.-2:30 p.m. Lecture Center 12

Instructor:

Susanna Fessler, Professor
Phone: (518) 442-4119 (this number *cannot* accept text messages)
Office Hours: M 2:30-3:30, F 12:00-1:00 and by appointment
Office: Humanities 243
E-mail: sfessler@albany.edu

Course Description:

This course will introduce the major elements of Japanese culture. An interdisciplinary approach will be followed, focusing on contemporary Japan and the social and cultural trends that are important at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Topics range from gender and family, the environment, race and ethnicity, urban life, popular culture, visual media, etc. This course has no prerequisites.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify the geography and ethnography of Japan
- Students will be able to identify the outline and major periods in the history of Japan
- Students will be able to identify the major issues in the modern transformation of the country they study.
- Students will be able to identify major currents of literature, philosophy, and/or religion in Japan

General Education Information:

This course fulfills the General Education Categories of **International Perspectives** and **Humanities**.

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.

This course fulfills the general education category **International Perspectives** by meeting learning objectives focused on a “region beyond Europe.” Such courses enable students to demonstrate:

1. knowledge of the distinctive features (e.g. history, institutions, economies, societies, cultures) of one region beyond Europe or European North America.
2. an understanding of the region from the perspective of its people(s).
3. an ability to analyze and contextualize cultural and historical materials relevant to the region.
4. an ability to locate and identify distinctive geographical features of the region.

This course also fulfills the **Humanities** general education category. Humanities courses teach students to analyze and interpret texts, ideas, artifacts, and discourse systems, and the human values, traditions, and beliefs that they reflect. 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; an ability to analyze and assess the strengths and weaknesses of ideas and positions along
4. 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.

Required Text:

- *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Culture and Society*. This book *must* be purchased in e-text form through Perusall.com or by Perusall Voucher through the UA Bookstore.

The first time you log on to Blackboard and click on any of the links to assigned readings, you will be taken to the Perusall page, where you will be prompted to purchase the textbook. You can purchase the text directly using a credit or debit card, or you can first get a voucher through the UA bookstore and enter that voucher number. You will have a choice of perpetual access, 365-day access, or 180-day access. You may also have a choice of “reflowable text” or not (which means HTML text or .pdf format). Any choice is fine for this course.

Testing and Grading:

Both the mid-term exam and the final exam will consist of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. Readings will all be done through Perusall. There will be a simple map assignment at the beginning of the semester, completed through Blackboard.

Grading will be based on the following criteria:

Map Assignment:	5%
Perusall Average:	20%
Mid-term Exam:	30%
Final Exam:	30%
Attendance:	15%

I will take attendance every day. For each day that you attend, you earn a 1. For each day you do not attend, you earn a 0. *Attendance means arriving on time and staying for the duration of the class.* At the end of the semester, I add up all the ones and zeros and calculate the average. That’s your attendance score. If you miss a class for an excused absence (illness or emergency), it is not calculated into your average.

I use the Grade Center in Blackboard, so you can check your grades there any time.

This syllabus is a non-negotiable contract. I agree to teach the topics listed below, and to grade you on the criteria listed above. I consider a grade of "Incomplete" to be for emergencies (death in the family, extreme illness, etc.), *not* for students who fail to plan ahead. **I do not curve grades. I do not give extra credit assignments.** The grading scale is as follows: 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.

If there are extenuating circumstances that you anticipate will unduly affect your grade, **it is your responsibility to speak with the instructor AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

			Topic	Reading/ assignment (links on Blackboard)
Jan.	18	W	Course Introduction	None
	23	M	What is Japan?	World Factbook Summary on Japan
	25	W	History	Shōwa-era Japan and beyond: from Imperial Japan to Japan Inc.
	30	M	Politics	Four cultures of Japanese politics
Feb.	1	W	The Japanese Language	The cultures and politics of language in Japan today
	6	M	Educational System	Japanese education and education reform
	8	W	Religion	Religion in contemporary Japanese lives
	13	M	Law	Law and society in Japan
	15	W	City Centers	The urbanization of the Japanese landscape
	20	M	Societal Structure	Social class and social identity in postwar Japan
	22	W	Gender	The politics of gender in Japan
	27	M	Families	Change and diversity in the Japanese family
March	1	W	LGBTQ	Japan's queer cultures
	6	M	Optional Review Session	None
	8	W	Midterm Exam	None
	13	M	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	None
	15	W	NO CLASS – SPRING BREAK	None
	20	M	Race & Ethnicity	Race, ethnicity, and minorities in modern Japan
	22	W	Out of the mainstream	Life on the margins in Japan: homeless, migrant day laborers, and people with disabilities
	27	M	The Older Generation	Aging and social welfare in Japan
	29	W	Corporate Culture	Japanese Worklife
April	3	M	Architecture	Contemporary architecture in Japan
	5	W	Visual Media	Japanese film and television
	10	M	Pop Culture & Art	Manga and anime: entertainment, big business, and art in Japan
	12	W	Music	Popular music in Japan
	17	M	Sports	The sportscape of contemporary Japan
	19	W	Japanese Cultural Influence	Cultural flows: Japan and East Asia
	24	M	Food	Cuisine and identity in contemporary Japan
	26	W	Yōkai	Articles on <i>kitsune</i> and <i>tanuki</i>
May	1	M	Optional Review Session	None

The final exam will take place on Monday, May 8, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. in our regular classroom.

SPRING 2023 FINAL EXAMINATION SCHEDULE
Final Exam Period: Thursday, May 4th – Wednesday, May 10th

If your class meets:		Your exam date and time:		
MWF MWF MW WF W	8:00am 8:25am 8:00am 8:00am 8:40am	Wednesday	May 10 th	1:00pm-3:00pm
MWF M	9:30am 8:40am	Tuesday	May 9 th	1:00pm-3:00pm
MWF MW WF F	10:35am 10:10am 10:10am 8:40am	Friday	May 5 th	10:30am-12:30pm
MWF WF F	11:40am (4 credits) 11:40am 11:40am	Monday	May 8 th	10:30am-12:30pm
MW M	11:40am 11:40am	Tuesday	May 9 th	8:00am-10:00am
MWF MW WF W	1:10pm (4 credits) 1:10pm 1:10pm 11:40am	Monday	May 8 th	1:00pm-3:00pm
MWF MW WF W	3:00pm (4 credits) 3:00pm 3:00pm 3:00pm	Tuesday	May 9 th	3:30pm-5:30pm
MW M M	4:30pm 3:00pm 4:30pm	Thursday	May 4 th	3:30pm-5:30pm
MWF F F	4:30pm (4 credits) 3:00pm 4:30pm	Saturday	May 6 th	3:30pm-5:30pm
WF W	4:30pm 4:30pm	Thursday	May 4 th	5:45pm-7:45pm
MWF MW M	6:00pm (4 credits) 6:00pm 6:00pm	Tuesday	May 9 th	5:45pm-7:45pm
W WF	6:00pm 6:00pm	Saturday	May 6 th	5:45pm-7:45pm
F F	6:00pm 7:30pm	Wednesday	May 10 th	8:00pm-10:00pm
MWF MW M	7:30pm (4 credits) 7:30pm 7:30pm	Tuesday	May 9 th	8:00pm-10:00pm
WF W	7:30pm 7:30pm	Thursday	May 4 th	8:00pm-10:00pm
T TH	7:30am	Thursday	May 4 th	10:30am-12:30pm
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T TH T	1:30pm 12:00pm	Wednesday	May 10 th	10:30am-12:30pm
T TH TH	3:00pm 3:00pm	Friday	May 5 th	3:30pm-5:30pm
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TH TH	4:30pm 6:00pm	Friday	May 5 th	5:45pm-7:45pm
T TH T	6:00pm 6:00pm	Wednesday	May 10 th	5:45pm-7:45pm
T TH T	7:30pm 7:30pm	Monday	May 8 th	3:30pm-5:30pm
TH	7:30pm	Friday	May 5 th	8:00pm-10:00pm

DEPARTMENTAL EXAM DATES

Thursday, May 4 th	Friday, May 5 th	Saturday, May 6 th	Monday, May 8 th
8:00am – 10:00am	8:00am – 10:00am	8:00am – 10:00am	8:00am – 10:00am
1:00pm – 3:00 pm	1:00pm – 3:00 pm	1:00pm – 3:00 pm	

For classes eligible for Department Exams: Assigned examination days, times and rooms will be announced in late-October.

**Final Exam Schedule is based on 3 and 4 credit meeting patterns.*

**In-person Final Exams are to be held in the classroom listed on the schedule of classes.*