

Japan Studies A: Intercultural Skills for Living in Japan

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Introduction:

In today's continually globalizing world, many of us study, live or work abroad yet not everyone does it with the same level of success. It is very common to think, "my country is better" or "these people are lazy / crazy / silly / disorganized / rude etc." As leading Intercultural scholar, Milton Bennett (1998, pp. 1) writes, "*Our initial response to difference is usually to avoid it.*" How successful (happy, able to learn, grow, thrive) we are in intercultural situations depends very much on how prepared we are and how much we know about cultural differences.

In this course we will take a close look at these differences. We will learn about theories of intercultural communication, but we will also balance students' own real experiences and opinions against each other to try to understand different values from a variety of perspectives. We will ask the questions, "what specific knowledge and skills are necessary to better understand Japanese culture?" and "how do different cultural dimensions affect your daily lives?" By answering these, students will be able to:

- a) better understand their daily struggles when communicating with people from different cultures.
- b) better understand all the cultures represented in the class.
- c) better understand any culture shock they may experience.

Class Format:

This course is designed for active students who enjoy expressing their opinions and improving their discussion skills. Students will be expected to work together to share their experiences and perspectives with the goal of better understanding different ways of thinking. Students will be expected to make presentations reflecting on their learning, as well as to keep and submit an intercultural reflection journal.

Course Schedule:

Class 1:	10/2 Introduction to the course Explanation of attainment objectives and grading assessment Introduction to the ideas of intercultural communication and intercultural competence
Class 2 - 4	10/5 SPECIAL CLASS (Kyotanabe Campus) Japanese Drum Performance & Experience
Class 5:	10/9 What is culture? (Introducing models of culture) In what ways are we different? Introducing cultural dimensions
Class 6:	10/16 The value of harmony in Japan and how it affects society. What are Individualism & Collectivism? How do they affect our behaviors, expectations, and the organization of societies? Sharing experiences of these cultural differences
Class 7:	10/23 What is high-context communication? Sharing experiences of different communication styles What is power-distance? What is uncertainty avoidance? How do they affect our behaviors, expectations, and the organization of societies? What is culture shock? How does it feel? Why is it useful?
Class 8:	10/30 Mid-semester presentations & group discussions
Class 9:	11/6 What is gender? How does it affect our behaviors and expectations? The World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Index & Japan

Class 10:	11/13 The cultural dimensions of masculinity & femininity. How do they affect the organization of societies?
Class 11:	11/20 Intercultural sensitivity (introducing models of intercultural competence)
Class 12:	11/27 Intercultural competence: What skills and abilities do we need to become more interculturally competent?
Class 13:	12/4 Final presentation preparation
Class 14:	12/11 FINAL PRESENTATIONS
Class 15:	12/18 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Evaluation:

Active participation: 30%

Presentation 1: 15%

Presentation 2: 15%

Intercultural Reflection Report: 40%

Japan Studies B:

Representation of Nature in Japanese

Culture: from ukiyo-e to anime

Instructor: I.D. Sancho

Email : ivandiazsancho@hotmail.com

Introduction:

This course explores modern and contemporary cultures in Japan from the late 19th century to today through a variety of genres and media: woodblock prints (*ukiyo-e*), modern literature, painting, cinema, and animation. The main objective is to develop a narrative that shows both the historical changes and the cultural processes that constitute what we understand nowadays as Japanese Popular Culture. To do so, we will focus on how the image of nature is represented historically in a range of media. At the end of the course, the students will have the opportunity to create their own narrative through a *kamishibai* performance.

Requirements:

Typically, each class will involve a lecture, group and class discussions, and in-class writing in response to that week's topic. Students will be expected to conduct individual research.

Evaluation:

Attendance and active participation: 30%

In-class written work: 30%

Final presentations: 40%

Course Schedule:

- Class 1: 9/27
Orientation and Course Introduction. Interpreting images from Japan.
What is *kamishibai*? (video)
- Class 2: 10/4
Japonisme and Impressionism: painting bridges between cultures.
- Class 3: 10/11
The Perception of Nature: waves vs. clouds.
- Class 4: 10/18
Musashino Plain: the Perception of nature through art history and modern literature.
(The contents may change depending on the field trip exhibitions.)
- Class 5: 10/25
Studio Ghibli Narratives.
Princess Mononoke: Historical recreation and Environmentalism.
- Class 6,7,8,9,10: 10/26-10/27
Field trip: Edo Tokyo Museum, Ukiyo-e Ota Memorial Museum of Art, and Tokyo streets. (The students will have to fill a worksheet in one of the museums.)
- Class 11: 11/1
Comments on the Tokyo field trip experiences and worksheet.
The motif of the frog in poetry and painting.
- Class 12: 11/8
Monsters in Nature: From Daidarabotchi to Godzilla.
- Class 13: 11/15
Godzilla vs. Gojira (America and Japan):
From Post-war environmental crisis to the birth of the toy industry.
- Class 14: 12/6
Introduction to Media Environment.
Monsters jumping from Nature to Media: Yokai and Pokémon.
- Class 15: 12/13
Final presentations (kamishibai presentations)

※This syllabus is subject to change based on the needs of the class.

Japan Studies C:

Kyoto Culture and History

Instructor: Paul Carty

Email: paulcarty@gmail.com

Phone: (TBA)

Introduction: In this class we will take a look at some of the important cultural moments in Kyoto's long history. We will discuss the religion, geography, art, literature and architecture of Kyoto. Students will be required to go and visit some of the places, which will be discussed in class.

Out textbook is "Kyoto, A cultural and literary history" by John Dougill and is required reading. Opportunities for further reading can be found on the syllabus.

Course Schedule:

- Class 01: 9/30
Pre-Heian Kyoto, Geography, World Heritage Sites
Assignment: Read Chapter One
- Class 02: 10/7
Emperor Kammu and Heian-Kyo
Topics: 1. Why Kyoto became capital, 2. Early court poetry,
3. Yin and Yang
Further Reading
a) The Ise Stories, by Mostow, J. and Tyler, R.
b) The Ink Dark Moon, by Hirshfield, J. and Aratani, M.
Assignment: Read Chapter Two
- Class 03: 10/14
Genji- Heian Culture
Topics: 1. Mid-Heian Poets-Sei Shonagon, Izumi Shikibu,
Murasaki Shikibu, 2. Tale of Genji
Further Reading
a) The Tale of Genji, Seidensticker translation
b) Pillow Book, trans. by McKinney, M.
Assignment: Read Chapter Three

- Class 04: 10/21
 Buddhism, Amida
 Topics: 1. Kyoto-center of the major Buddhist sects in Japan,
 2. Buddhist Statues-understanding and identifying
 Further Reading
 a) Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions edit. Swanson and
 Chilson
 b) The Weaving of Mantra, Abe, Ryuichi
 Assignment: Read Chapter Four
- Class 05: 10/28
 Heike, Late Heian
 Topics: 1. Tale of Heike- Yoshitsune and Kamakura Period
 2. Literature of Late Heian- Saigyō, Kamo no Chomei, Yoshida
 Kenko
 3. Hyakunin Isshu- One Hundred Poets, One Poem Each
 Further Reading
 a) Hyakunin Isshu -
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/japanese/hyakunin/index.html>
 b) Kamo no Chomei – An Account of Life in a Hut,
<http://www.washburn.edu/reference/bridge24/Hojoki.html>
 c) Saigyō's Poetry-
<http://www.temcauley.staff.shef.ac.uk/saigyō.shtml>
 Assignment: Read Chapter Five pp. 76-88
- Class 6: 11/4
 Zen
 Focus: 1. Ashikaga Rulers
 2. Zen Temples in Kyoto
 Further Reading
 a) Zen and Kyoto, Einarsen, J.
 b) Five Mountains, Collcutt, M.
 Assignment: Read Chapter Six pp 88-108
- Class 7: 11/11
 Muromachi Art
 Focus 1. Dry Rock Gardens
 2. Zen Art
 3. Noh, Kyogen
 Further Reading
 a) Noh – <http://www.the-noh.com/>
 b) Japanese Stone Gardens, Mansfield, S.
 c) Zen Art: Attaining Landscapes in the Mind: Nature Poetry and
 Painting in Gozan

Zen Author(s): Joseph D. Parker: Source: Monumenta Nipponica,
Vol. 52, No. 2 (Summer, 1997), pp.235-25
Assignment: Read Chapter Seven

- Classes 11/16 Saturday Field Trip
8-10: 10:00 – 4:00 Trip to Okazaki, Nan-zenji and Philosopher's Path
- Class 11: 11/18
Nobunaga and Hideyoshi
Topics: 1. Castles of Momoyama
2. Hideyoshi's Shrine- Toyokuni / Hoko-ji
3. Momoyama Art- Kano School
Further Reading
a) Hideyoshi, by Berry, Mary Elizabeth
b) Japonius Tyrannus, by Lamers, Jeroen
Assignment: Visit a Museum and Prepare a Presentation Poster
- Class 12: 11/25
Tea
Focus: 1. Sen no Rikyu
2. Raku and Ceramics in Kyoto
Further Reading
a) Handmade Culture by Pitelka, Morgan
b) Japanese Arts and the Tea Ceremony by Hayashiya,
Tatusaburo, publisher: Weatherhill
c) Kyoto Ceramics by Sato, Masahiko, publisher: Weatherhill
Assignment: Read pp 143-160
- Class 13: 12/2
Edo Period
Topics: 1. Nijo Castle, Goshō, Shugakuin Imperial Villa, Katsura
Imperial Villa
2. Rimpa Art School- Koetsu, Korin Brothers
3. Literati- Haiku, Buson
Further Reading
a) Palaces of Kyoto, by Tadashi Ishikawa .pub Kodansha
International
b) Designing Nature, The Rinpa Aesthetic in Japanese Art, by
John T. Carpenter, pub. Metropolitan Museum
c) Haiku by Basho and Buson, article:
[http:// www.haikupoet.com/definitions/beyond_the
haiku_moment.html](http://www.haikupoet.com/definitions/beyond_the_haiku_moment.html)
Assignment: Read pp 160-172

Class 14: 12/9
Meiji Period

Topics: 1. Education
2. Modern Technology - Kyoto Biwako Canal
3. Movies - Sisters of Nishijin

Further Reading

a) The Old Capital by Yasunari Kawabata

b) The Temple of the Golden Pavilion, by Yukio Mishima

Assignment: prepare for presentation

Class 15: 12/16
Presentation

*Classwork will consist of lecture and class discussion. Students are required to go to a museum, write a report and make a presentation about one museum.

Evaluation:

Attendance and participation 25%,

Homework 50%,

Final Paper and Presentation 25%

Required Textbook:

Kyoto / John Dougill/ Signal Books, Oxford 2006

Japan Studies D : Zen and the Gardens of Kyoto

Fall semester 2024. Class on Tuesday 2nd period (11:00 am - 12:30 pm)

Instructor: Ignacio ARISTIMUÑO.
Email: ignitus@msn.com

Introduction:

This course introduces the Zen culture of Kyoto expressed through its gardens. It focuses on the history of Zen, aesthetics, thought, and attitudes for daily life. It also looks to understand the history Zen gardens and the different types of arrangements. Special emphasis is placed on the contribution made by famous gardener monks and the doctrinal approaches offered by the different branches. An exchange with a Zen monk and a guided study tour to relevant temples and gardens in the city of Kyoto are planned to strengthen debates and discussions, as well as to help the formation of research groups for final evaluation. The study of Zen, the practice of meditation, and the understanding of ecology, religion, art, and garden design principles are undertaken to develop a deeper understanding of Japan and awaken in the student a more sensitive disposition towards nature.

Class Format:

The class format will follow the seminar style scheme. Active participation is encouraged and students will be expected to contribute with new ideas that can lead discussion on the topic. Beside of a written test, personal interaction and exchange of opinions within the class will be the method of feedback for constructing knowledge. For this year, there is a e-textbook (online) which can be found in Amazon.

Einarsen, John (2004). *Zen and Kyoto* —*禅と京都*— Kyoto: Uniplan Co., Inc.

There are printed materials for learning prepared by the professor. In each class, PowerPoint and video documentary are shown, and the last 10-15 minutes zazen meditation is practiced. The students are motivated to visit specific temples and gardens in Kyoto. By the end of the course, they are expected to perform an oral presentation and submit a final research report.

Skills to Develop:

Experiential knowledge on Zen and traditional Japanese garden art, analytical ability and research capability, self-management, self-expression and communication skills, competence in oral presentation, leadership and team collaboration ability.

Course Schedule:

- Class 1: Oct. 1st (Tue.) - **Chapter 1: ON ZEN**
Outline of the course, overview, and definitions.
- Class 2: Oct. 8th (Tue.) - **Chapter 2: HISTORY OF ZEN I**
Zen roots in India, flowering in China, and its seeds in Japan.
- Class 3: Oct. 15th (Tue.) - **Chapter 3: HISTORY OF ZEN II**
Buddha, Bodhidharma, Eisai, Dogen, Hakuin, and others.
- Class 4: Oct. 22th (Tue.) - **Chapter 4: BUDDHIST TEACHINGS I**
The Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path.
- Class 5: Nov. 5th (Tue.) - **Chapter 5: BUDDHIST TEACHINGS II**
Five aggregates, emptiness, and dependent origination.
- Class 6: Nov. 12th (Tue.) - **Chapter 6: THE ZEN TEMPLE I**
Temple layout, interior space, images, and other features.
- Class 7: Nov. 19th (Tue.) - **Chapter 7: THE ZEN TEMPLE II**
The Five Mountains system, Zen arts, and gardener monks.
- Class 8: Nov. 26st (Tue.) - **Chapter 8: THE ZEN GARDEN**
History of Japanese garden, the Zen gardens.
- Class 9: Dec. 1st (Sun.) - **Field Trip: VISITING TEMPLES AND GARDENS IN KYOTO**
Lecture by a Zen monk and Zen meditation practice.
- Class 10: Dec. 10th (Tue.) - **MIDDLE-TERM TEST**
Research Practice, Guidance & Support.
- Class 11-15: Dec. 17th (Tue.) - **PRACTICUM**
Oral presentation and individual report submission.

Evaluation:

1. Individual participative evaluation (20%):

- 15% Weekly evaluation (attendance)
- 5% Personal contribution to the class

2. Knowledge evaluation (40%):

- 10% Field trip on Dec. 1st
- 30% Middle-term test on Dec. 10th

3. Interactive and socially engaged evaluation (40%):

Research assignment on Nov. 12th

- 20% Oral presentation

- 20% Final report submission

References for consultation at the University's library:

Dougill, John and Einarsen, John (2024). *Zen Gardens and Temples in Kyoto: A Guide to Kyoto's Most Important Sites*. Tokyo: Tuttle.

Dumoulin, Heinrich (2005). *Zen Buddhism: A History* (Vol. 1 & 2). World Wisdom.

Einarsen, John (2004). *Zen and Kyoto* 一禅と京都一. Kyoto: Uniplan. (textbook)

Koren, Leonard (2008). *Wabi-Sabi for Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers*. Imperfect Publishing.

Kuck, Loraine (1980). *The World of Japanese Garden: From Chinese Origins to Modern Landscape Art*. Tokyo: Weatherhill.

Young, David and Michiko (2005). *The Art of Japanese Garden*. Tokyo: Tuttle.

Young, David and Michiko (2019). *The Art of Japanese Architecture*. Tokyo: Tuttle.