

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Perspectives on Japan

Course Number and Section

JAPANESE

1650F 550

Instructor Name(s): Christopher White

Instructor Email(s): cwhite53@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL Brightspace is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

A multi-disciplinary overview of Japan, including territory, people, language, religion, economy, popular culture, science and technology, among others.

The course presupposes no knowledge of Japanese civilization. Students investigate – and formulate questions – on Japan and East Asia within today's globalized world, identify their own cultural bias toward less familiar subjects, and critically evaluate diverse perspectives. Students are expected to prepare for each class by doing short (preliminary) research.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to demonstrate

- knowledge and understanding of the main parameters of Japan Studies and East Asian Studies;
- their ability and skills in discussing and analyzing topics related to Japan;
- critical reading and thinking skills on the subject matter;
- their ability to use modern research methods;
- their ability to evaluate the relevance and importance of different ideas.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

N/A

Course readings posted on Brightspace.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Essay Proposal	10/19/2026	10%
Short Paper 1	12/09/2026	15%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Short Paper 2	12/09/2026	15%
Final Paper	11/30/2026	25%
Documentary Analysis	12/09/2026	10%
Class Participation		20%

Friday, August 14, 2026

Huron Brief Course Outline 2026/27

In-course Costs \$000.00

For Textbooks and Course Materials (below), you are required to include the cost of each textbook or other learning material.

Note whether there are any restrictions that would prevent a student from using a second-hand copy. Here is some suggested text:

- Required textbook: [author, title, edition, publisher, date]. Cost: [insert amount].
 - Or include the weblink of the textbook’s publisher site that includes the cost information.
- Students need to purchase this edition. Second-hand or older editions will not be sufficient.
- OR Students are welcome to purchase second-hand or earlier editions of this textbook.
- This course has an optional field trip that costs [insert amount].
- This course has a required field component that costs [insert amount].

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.