

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Cultural Foundation of Modern Japan

Course Number and Section

JAPANESE

2601A 550

Instructor Name(s): Michiya Kawai

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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 survey of the historical, artistic, philosophical, and religious factors that shape modern Japan. Taught in English.

Learning Outcomes: one outcome per entry

- To acquire a basic knowledge of Japanese history, cultural heritage, and other “cultural” elements of the modern Japan.
- To develop a critical (and comparative) view toward a “foreign” culture.
- To exercise modern research methods
- To formulate questions and discover the answers

Textbooks and Course Materials:

Varley, Paul. 1973/2000. Japanese Culture Fourth Edition. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.

Methods of Evaluation: one assignment per entry

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
1st short paper	10/06/2026	20%
2nd short paper	11/08/2026	25%
Final paper	12/6/2026	30%
Class participation	Fall Term	25%

Tuesday, August 11, 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.