

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: Cultural Foundations of Japan

Course Number and Section:

JAPANESE

2601A 550

Instructor Name(s): Christopher White

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

Course Description:

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

Class Methods:

Introduction to Japanese civilization from historical, geo-political, and cultural perspectives. The course presupposes no knowledge of Japanese civilization. The course begins by listing the characteristics of modern Japanese culture. We will examine how these characteristics have evolved. The course will be conducted through lectures and classroom discussion based upon the reading materials, students' individual (mini) research, and/or video and other materials. Students are expected to prepare for each class by doing short (preliminary) research.

Learning Outcomes:

- 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:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Analysis 1	10/04/2024	20%
Analysis 2	10/30/2024	20%

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Analysis 3	11/20/2024	20%
Analysis 4	12/06/2024	20%
Participation		20%

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

Monday, September 2, 2024