

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Japanese Program: French and Asian Studies
FALL 2022

JPN2601A-550 (8452)
Cultural Foundation of Modern Japan:
An Introduction to Japanese Civilization

Instructor: Christopher White
Time: **Thursday 9:30 am -12:30 pm**
Place: **HC – V207**
Office: A20
Email: cwhite53@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Th: 12:30-1:30, or by appointment

Course Description:

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

Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.5 course.

Course Learning Objectives:

- 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

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.

Required Course Texts:

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

Other required reading materials will be posted in OWL.

Any supplementary reading on Japanese culture and history may be helpful.

Methods of Evaluation/Assessment:

- Four short (approx. 3-6 pages plus references) papers; they each constitute 20% of the final grade.
- Participation will be 20% of the final grade.
- Due dates are absolute and late work will not be accepted without a prior approval.
- Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Assignments are electronically submitted.

JPN 2601A Fall 2022 Tentative Schedule**I Introduction****September**

- 8 Defining the questions. What is Japanese civilization/culture?
List and analyze characteristics of Japanese culture.
What are the repeatedly used expressions describing Japan, Japanese people, and their culture?
- 15 Methodological Considerations
What is Japanese civilization/culture?
Research methodology (Dr. Rachel Melis)
PV: 1–13

II Historical Overview

- 22 Early Japan: Chapter One: *Origin, Roots* among others (Craig (C)): pp. 1–12).
What was going on in the rest of the world?
Early Japan Neolithic to the *Yamato* Period (Chs 1 & 2). PV: 14–47
What are the characteristics of each period?
- 29 Early Japan to Yamato Period/Nara Period (Chs 3 & 4). PV: 48–89
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
What still survives today from these periods?

*** *First short paper due Sept 29:*
On characteristics (or stereotypes) of Japanese culture.
This topic is too general, so you have to narrow down your topic.

October

- 6 Heian Period and Kamakura Period. (Chs 4 &5) PV: 48–89
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
What still survives today from these periods?
- 13 Middle Age: *Kamakura, and Muromachi* (Chs 5 & 6). PV: 91–163
Feudalism, Zen, Noh
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
What still survives today from these periods?
- 20 Late Traditional Japan: Edo (Chs. 7 & 8). PV: 164–234
 European Colonialism, Modernization, Cash Economy
Summarize the characteristics of this period.
- 27 *What was the implication of the “isolation” policy? Myths and Reality.*
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
How does the textbook description differ from the class lecture, and why?
- *** *Second short paper due Oct 27*
Discuss cultural characteristics during the Nara–Kamakura period.
 This question is too general; you need to pick one (narrower) topic of your choice.

<<Fall Study Break: October 31 - November 4: No Class>>

November

- 10 Emergence of Modern Japan and Wars (Chs. 9 & 10). PV: 235–303
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
Summarize the characteristics of each period covered in this segment.
What is the implication of modernization/westernization of Japan?
What are the implications of WWII?
What are the issues with the standard accounts of this period of the history?
- 17 Post-WWII /Contemporary Japan (Chs. 11) PV: 304–351
Describe the characteristics of the US Occupation policy
Describe the role of Cold War
- *** *Third short paper due Nov 24*
Discuss cultural characteristics during the Muromachi–Early Showa period.
 This question is too general; you need to pick one (narrower) topic of your choice.

III Elements of Japanese Culture

- Nov 24 Post-WWII /Contemporary Japan (TBA)

Popular Culture
Dec 1 *Japan and the World*
Japonism/ *Japonisme* (Arts) (PPT)
Consider the cultural exports from Japan

December

Dec 8 Wrap-Up: Japan today
Japan today (TBA)
Find any relevant information on those topics

*** *Fourth short paper due Dec 8*
Discuss cultural characteristics of contemporary Japan.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar) . The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) Consideration on **Medical Grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: **Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca Community

Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)