

Elective Course Description (2. Spring Semester)

Subject (English)	Japanese Culture B		Semester	Spring	Day/Slot	
科目名 (日本語)	日本の文化 B					
Course Code		Course Numbering	UJY-OHU102E		Period	Apr. – Aug
Instructor (Post)	Koji Shidara (Part-time lecturer)				Campus	
					Building	
Faculty	Institute for Excellence in Higher Education		Credits	2	Class Room	
Class subject	Japanese culture					
Object and summary of class						
<p>An exploratory culture course, Japanese Culture B is offered for foreign students to learn about and share insights into various aspects of the living culture of Japan. The course comprises three basic approaches: discussion of certain cultural aspects of the country; reading literature; field trips to places of cultural significance. Those who took Japanese Culture A in the fall semester should take Japanese Culture B in the spring semester since they make a pair. Culture B and D courses overlap in part due to the nature of certain special events taking place during the semester.</p>						
Keywords	history that's alive, changing styles of expression, interconnection, rebuilding					
Goal of study						
<p>Students will gain a new perspective of the culture of this nation by examining the interconnection of various elements including the history and culture of Tohoku Region, rebuilding effort from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and the various ways Japanese expressed themselves at different periods in history.</p>						
Contents and progress schedule of class						
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Course introduction: Fall semester review; overview of Tohoku Region 2. Rebuilding effort in Tohoku after 2011 3. Fieldwork in the coastal districts ; partaking in the forestation of the tsunami embankments 4. Reading : “The Bears of Nametoko,” a short story by Miyazawa Kenji—Examining early 20th-century conditions 5. Music and anime: Popular styles of expression 6. Preparing for Shiroishi fieldwork; reading movie script “We are no traitors!” 7&8. Fieldwork in Shiroishi: Visiting castle and noh theater; meeting sword-making master 9. Tamamushi Sadayu : Story of one last samurai 10. Visiting the Miyagi Museum of Art: Exploring changes in fine arts during the past one and a half century 11. Reading “The Flower-eating Crone” by Fumiko Enchi—examining changes in the 20th-century mind 12. Preparing for fieldwork in Tomiya and Iwadeyama 13. Fieldwork in Tomiya and Iwadeyama: Visiting the Uchigasaki sake brewery and former samurai school 14. Student presentation 15. Student presentation 						
Preparation	Weekly posting of reflections on the topic of each lecture on class web forum site					
Record and evaluation method	Evaluation will be based on attendance, weekly web assignments, final paper and presentation.					
Textbook and references	<p>Course materials will be provided as handouts.</p> <p>References: <i>Japan: The Story of a Nation</i>, Edwin O. Reischauer</p>					
Self study	Same as “Preparation” above					
In addition	-					