

Subject (English)	Japanese Culture B		Semester	Spring	Day/Slot	Wed./3rd 13:00 - 14:30
科目名 (日本語)	日本の文化 B					
Course Code	VJ234S1	Course Numbering	UJY-OHU102E		Period	Apr. 10 – Aug.7, 2019
Instructor (Post)	Koji Shidara (Part-time lecturer)			Campus	Aobayama	
				Building	Department of Applied Chemistry, Chemical Engineering and Biomolecular Engineering	
Faculty	Institute for Excellence in Higher Education		Credits	2	Class Room	Room “Kachu” (2F)
Class subject	Japanese culture					
Object and summary of class						
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.						
Keywords	history that’s alive, changing styles of expression, interconnection, rebuilding					
Goal of study						
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.						
Contents and progress schedule of class						
No	Date	Contents				
1	4/10	Course introduction: Fall semester review; overview of Tohoku Region				
2	4/13(Sat)	Fieldwork: Celebrating the dedication of Imperial Household grove at the Millennium Hope Hills				
3	4/17	Music and anime: Popular styles of expression				
4	4/24	Reading : “The Bears of Nametoko,” a short story by Miyazawa Kenji —Examining early 20th-century conditions				
5	5/8	Preparing for Shiroishi fieldwork; reading movie script “We are no traitors!”				
6-7	5/11 (Sat)	Fieldwork in Shiroishi: Visiting castle and noh theater; meeting sword-making master				
8	5/22	Tamamushi Sadayu : Story of one last samurai				
9	5/25(Sat)	Fieldwork: Partaking in the forestation of tsunami embankment at the Millennium Hope Hills				
10	5/29	Reading: “Separate Ways” by Higuchi Ichiyo—Getting a glimpse of life in Meiji-period Japan				
11	6/5	Preparing for fieldwork in Tomiya and Iwadeyama				
12	6/8 (Sat)	Fieldwork in Tomiya and Iwadeyama: Visiting the Uchigasaki sake brewery and former samurai school				
13	6/19	Children’s literature: Coming to know what Japanese children learn				
14	7/3	Student presentation				
15	7/10	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 class participation, weekly web assignments, final paper and presentation.					
Textbook and references	Course materials will be provided as handouts. References: 1. <i>Japan: The Story of a Nation</i> , Edwin O. Reischauer 2. <i>Surviving the 2011 Tsunami: 100 Testimonies of Ishinomaki Area Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake</i> , the Editorial Office of the Ishinomaki Kahoku					
Self study	Same as “Preparation” above					
In addition	For the highlighted fieldworks , “Participation Fee” is required. (2,000 JPY/per trip [non-refundable]) Further information will be given in the class.					