

Subject (English)	Japanese Culture A		Semester	Fall	Day/Slot	Wed./2 nd 10:30-12:00
科目名 (日本語)	日本の文化 A					
Course Code	VJ23F50	Course Numbering			Period	Oct. 2, 2019 – Jan. 15, 2020
Instructor (Post)	K. 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 “Kasho”- 1	
Class subject	Japanese culture					
Object and summary of class	An exploratory culture course, Japanese Culture A 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. Japanese Culture A and C courses overlap in part due to the nature of certain special events taking place during the semester.					
Keywords	history that’s alive, 2011 earthquake and tsunami, rebuilding, Sendai mission to Vatican					
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 intent to reach out to the rest of the world.					
Contents and progress schedule of class						
No.	Date	Contents				
1	10/2	General course guidance & short lecture “What’s in a name?”				
2	10/9	Overview of the history of Japan and Tohoku Region; preparation for Nenoshiroishi Fieldwork				
3	10/19(Sat)	Fieldwork: Nenoshiroishi’s Kamuri Festival and Mt. Izumi				
4	10/23	Sendai Castle: Historical roles and its destiny				
5	10/30	Hiking the former Sendai Castle grounds				
6	11/6	Building the Millennium Hope Hills in Iwanuma City: Identifying its cultural roots				
7	11/13	17 th -century mission to the Vatican from Sendai-Ishinomaki				
8	11/20	Surviving the 2011 tsunami: Reading survivor accounts				
9	11/27	Coming to terms with the 2011 tsunami: Reading <i>Warm Hands</i> —momentum for rebuilding				
10 11	11/30(Sat)	Fieldwork in Ishinomaki: Inspecting rebuilding effort; visiting 17 th -century ship, nursery school				
12	12/11	Reading: <i>The Samurai</i> by Shusaku Endo, a novel modeled after Sendai’s 17 th -century mission				
13	12/18	Visiting Sendai City Museum: Seeing artifacts 17th-century samurai brought back from Europe				
14	1/8	Student presentation				
15	1/15	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	Textbooks: 1. <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 2. <i>Warm Hands</i> , Miki Onosaki References: <i>Japan: The Story of a Nation</i> , Edwin O. Reischauer					
Self study	Same as “Preparation” above					
In addition	For the highlighted fieldworks , “Participation Fee” (2,000 JPY/per trip [non-refundable]) is required. Further information will be given in the class.					