

Subject	Japanese Culture B
Categories	JYPE 科目
Day・Period	Tuesday / 2nd Period
Year	2025
Semester	Spring Semester
Credit(s)	2
Instructor (Position)	SHIDARA, Koji (part-time lecturer)
Eligibility	【JYPE】
Language	English
Notes	
Class Subject	Japanese Culture
Objectives 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; fieldwork at 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.
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 Japan and Tohoku Region, rebuilding effort from the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, and certain ways people expressed themselves at different times in history.
Contents and Class Schedule	<p>Class contents include lectures and discussions accompanied with fieldwork opportunities. Fourteen years since the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, the subject of disaster prevention and mitigation has come to hold an important place in the culture of this nation. Japanese Culture class has been contributing to this cause following the 2011 event and will continue to do so during this semester as well, albeit in a small way.</p> <p>Class Schedule:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apr. 08 Course introduction: Fall semester review; historical overview of Japan and Tohoku Region 2. Apr. 15 Music and anime: Checking out some popular styles of expression 3. Apr. 22 Reading a short story by Miyazawa Kenji: Looking into the mind of an early 20th-century author 4. Apr. 26 (Saturday morning) Practicing zazen meditation at Rinnoji Buddhist Temple of Kitayama; confirming cultural roots of the Millennium Hope Hills, the Pacific coastal green embankment 5. May 13 Preparing for Shiroishi fieldwork: Boshin War and end of Tokugawa rule; reading movie script "We are no traitors!" for a glimpse of Shiroishi City's cultural identity 6&7. May 17 (whole day Saturday) Visiting Shiroishi City: Meeting master noh performer at Hekisuien Noh Theater; checking Shiroishi Castle; watching the movie "We are no traitors!"; meeting master katana swordsmith 8. May 24 (whole day Saturday) Nurturing the Millennium Hope Hills: Planting and maintaining the Pacific coastal green embankment in Iwanuma City 9. May 27 Reading a short story by Higuchi Ichiyo: Getting a glimpse into everyday life of early days of modern Japan 10. Jun. 3 Former samurai families from Iwadeyama: Pioneers in Hokkaido 11. Jun. 10 Visiting Sendai City Museum: Seeing artifacts related with the course and checking some historical landmarks(during class hour) 12. Jun. 17 Tamamushi Sadayu—Story of one last samurai circumnavigating the world 13. Jun. 24 Senryu: Appreciating and enjoying three-line colloquial poems 14. Jul. 08 Student presentation 15. Jul. 15 Student presentation
Evaluation Method	Evaluation will be based on class participation, weekly posting assignment on the class web site, final paper and presentation.

Textbook and References

書名	著者名	出版社	出版年	ISBN/ISSN	資料種別
Japan: The Story of a Nation	Edwin O. Reischauer	Tuttle Publishing	2012	978-4-8053-0666-6	Reference
The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories	Theodore W. Goossen	Oxford University Press	2010	9780199583195	Reference
Strong in the Rain: Surviving Japan's Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster	Lucy Birmingham et al	Palgrave Macmillan	2012	9780230341869	Reference

U R L		Google Classroom			
Preparation and Review		Students are required to post reflections on the topic of each lecture or activity on class web forum site every week.			
In Addition		The university will subsidize part of the bus charter cost involved with fieldwork, and transportation arrangements will be determined once the semester begins and the class size is known. Please note that the class schedule may need to be revised as the semester proceeds.			
Last Update		Last updated: 2025/04/01			

One-credit courses require 45 hours of study. In lecture and exercise-based classes, one credit consists of 15-30 hours of class time and 30-15 hours of preparation and review outside of class. In laboratory, practical skill classes, one credit consists of 30-45 hours of class time and 15-0 hours of preparation and review outside of class.