

Subject	Japanese Culture C				
Categories	JYPE Subject				
Day・Period	Friday/2nd Period				
Year	2025				
Semester	Fall Semester				
Credit(s)	2				
Instructor (Position)	Koji SHIDARA				
Eligibility	【JYPE】				
Language	English				
Notes					
Class Subject	Japanese Culture				
Objectives and Summary of Class	An exploratory culture course, Japanese Culture C 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: discussing cultural characteristics of the nation; reading some representative literature; and conducting fieldwork at places of cultural significance. Students can sign up with either Japanese Culture A or Japanese Culture C. In large part, the course contents of both classes alternate between fall and spring semesters. Those students who are here only for the fall semester are allowed to sign up with one class but may join fieldwork activities of the other class if there are openings available.				
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 various ways people expressed themselves at different periods in history.				
Contents and Class Schedule	Class Schedule 2025				
	1. 10/3 General course guidance & short lecture “What’s in a name?” 2. 10/10 Music and anime: Checking out some popular styles of expression 3. 10/17 Historical overview of Japan and Tohoku Region 4. 10/31 Hiking the Sendai Castle ruins (during class hour) 5. 11/7 Reading a short story: Looking into the mind of an early 20th-century author 6. 11/14 Preparing for Nenoshiroishi fieldwork: Cultural roles of folkdance tradition 7. 11/15 (Sat. All day) Visiting Nenoshiroishi district’s Kamuri Folkdance Festival; checking out local farmers’ market; hiking Mt. Izumigatake 8. 11/22 (Sat. AM) Visiting Rinnoji Temple: Trying out zazen meditation; finding out about cultural roots of the Millennium Hope Hills, a coastal green embankment 9. 11/28 Tamamushi Sadayu: Story of a samurai circumnavigating the world 10. 12/5 Preparing for Shiroishi fieldwork: Reading movie script “We are no traitors!” for a glimpse into Shiroishi’s identity following the Boshin War 11&12. 12/13 (Sat. All day) Visting Shiroishi-jo Castle; watching “We are no traitors!”; meeting master Katana swordsmith 13. 12/19 Senryu: Appreciating and enjoying colloquial Japanese poems 14. 1/23 Student presentation 15. 1/30 Student presentation				
Evaluation Method	Evaluation will be based on attendance, weekly web assignments, 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	Edwin O. Reischauer	Tuttle Publishing	2012	ISBN 978-4-8053-0666-6	Reference
The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories	Theodore W. Goossen	Oxford University Press	2010	ISBN9780199583195	Reference
Strong in the Rain: Surviving Japan’s Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster	Lucy Birmingham et al	Palgrave Macmillan	2012	ISBN9780230341869	Reference

U R L	Google Classroom				
Preparation and Review	Students are required to post reflections on the topic of each lecture on class web site every week.				
In Addition	-All necessary materials will be handed out. -The university will subsidize part of the cost involved with fieldwork, and transportation arrangements will be determined once semester begins and class size is known. -Please note that class schedule may need to be revised as semester proceeds due to restrictions related with certain circumstances.				
Last Update	2025/09/24				

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.