

Subject	Japanese Culture B				
Categories	JYPE Subject				
Day · Period	Tuesday / 2nd Period				
Year	2026				
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: discussing certain 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 B or Japanese Culture D, but those who took Japanese Culture A in the fall semester should sign up with Japanese Culture B. In large part, the course contents of both classes alternate between fall and spring semesters. Those students who are here only for the spring semester are allowed to sign up with one class but may join fieldwork activities of the other class if there are openings available. Contents of 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 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	<p>Class contents include lectures and discussions accompanied with fieldwork opportunities. Fifteen 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 Spring 2026</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apr. 14 Course Introduction; fall semester review</li> <li>2. Apr. 21 Music and anime: Checking out some popular styles of expression</li> <li>3. Apr. 25 (Sat. morning) Practicing zazen meditation at Rinnoji Buddhist Temple of Kitayama; confirming cultural roots of the Millennium Hope Hills, the Pacific coastal green embankment</li> <li>4. Apr. 28 Reading a short story by Miyazawa Kenji: Discussing how an early 20th-century author continues to be read by people today</li> <li>5. May 12 Preparing for Shiroishi fieldwork: Reading movie script "We are no traitors!" for a glimpse into Shiroishi's identity following the Boshin War</li> <li>6. May 19 Tamamushi Sadayu—Story of one last samurai circumnavigating the world</li> <li>7&amp;8 May 24 (Sun. All day) Visiting Shiroishi City: Meeting master noh performer Kojima Hideaki at Hekisuien Noh Theater; checking Shiroishi Castle; watching the movie "We are no traitors!"</li> <li>9. June 02 Reading a short story by Higuchi Ichiyo: Looking into the delicacies of a late 19th-century woman author</li> <li>10. June 06 (Sat. All day) Nurturing the Millennium Hope Hills: Planting and maintaining the Pacific coastal green embankment in Iwanuma City</li> <li>11. June 16 Former samurai families from Iwadeyama: Pioneers in Hokkaido; historical overview of Japan and Tohoku Region</li> <li>12. June 23 Visiting the newly reopened Miyagi Museum of Art: Tracing changes in the Japanese art styles since the opening of the country up to the present</li> <li>13. June 30 Senryu: Appreciating and enjoying three-line colloquial poems</li> <li>14. July 14 Student presentation</li> <li>15. July 21 Student presentation</li> </ol>				
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-All necessary materials will be handed out.</li> <li>-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.</li> <li>-Please note that class schedule may need to be revised as semester proceeds due to restrictions related with certain circumstances.</li> </ul>				
Last Update					

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.