

Subject	Japanese Culture D				
Categories	JYPE Subject				
Day · Period	Tuesday / 3rd 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 D 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 C in the fall semester should sign up with Japanese Culture D. 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 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. 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>Apr. 14 Course introduction and fall semester review</li> <li>Apr. 21 17th-century Sendai mission to the Vatican; how it continues to affect Japan today</li> <li>Apr. 28 King of oyster farming: The dream of a young man from Okinawa culminates in early 20th-century Ishinomaki after years of attempts overseas</li> <li>May 08 (Friday but Tuesday schedule campuswide) Reading "Warm Hands": Coming to terms with the 2011 tsunami</li> <li>May 12 Surviving the 2011 Tsunami: Discussing survivor accounts from the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami</li> <li>6&amp;7. May 16 (Sat. All day) Ishinomaki fieldwork: Seeing rebuilding status from 2011 tsunami attack; meeting the author of Warm Hands. Destinations include: Ishinomaki Higashi Nursery School; Dogenin Buddhist Temple; coastal hamlets; the Saint Juan Bautista Museum</li> <li>May 26 Preparing for planting action at the Millennium Hope Hills: Cultural significance of building coastal green embankments</li> <li>June 06 (Sat. All day) Nurturing the Millennium Hope Hills: Planting and maintaining the Pacific coastal green embankment in Iwanuma City</li> <li>June 16 Culture of sake and wine: Preparing for a visit to the oldest sake brewery and to one of the newest wineries in Miyagi; historical overview of Japan and Tohoku</li> <li>June 20 (Sat. All day) Challenges of new and old: Visiting one of Miyagi's newest wineries in the morning, followed by the oldest working sake brewery in the afternoon. Class will meet both owners.</li> <li>June 23 Reading part of a novel based on the 17th-century Sendai mission to the Vatican</li> <li>June 30 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>July 14 Student presentation</li> <li>July 21 Student presentation</li> </ol>				
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
Warm Hands	Miki Onosaki	Pantaka	2013	978-4-938532-34-5	Textbook
Surviving the 2011 Tsunami: 100 Testimonies of Ishinomaki Area	Editorial Office of the Ishinomaki Kahoku	Junposha	2014	9784845113514	Textbook

Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake					
Japan: The Story of a Nation	Edwin O. Reischauer	Tuttle Publishing	2012	978-4-8053-0666-6	Reference
The Samurai	Shusaku Endo	New Directions Books	1997	978-0-8112-1346-2	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 on class web 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					

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.