

Subject	Japanese Culture A				
Categories	JYPE Subject				
Day・Period	Wednesday/2nd Period				
Year	2026				
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 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: discussing certain cultural characteristics of the nation; reading some representative literature; and conducting fieldwork at locations 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, as well as the intent to reach out to the rest of the world.				
Contents and Class Schedule	Class Schedule Fall 2026 1. 10/07 General course guidance and short lecture “What’s in a name?” 2. 10/ 14 Historical overview of Japan and Tohoku Region 3. 10/21 Reading movie script “Even Unto the World’s End” and discussing how Sendai’s 17th-century mission to the Vatican affects the culture of this nation today 4. 10/28 Preparing for the Oct. 31 sake brewery visit 5. 10/31 (Sat.) Challenges of carrying on four-century-old sake brewery: Visiting Miyagi’s oldest working sake brewery. Class will meet the owner. 6. 11/04 “Surviving the 2011 Tsunami”: Reading and discussing survivor accounts 7. 11/11 Coming to terms with the 2011 tsunami: Reading “Warm Hands” 8/9. 11/14 (Sat.) Going on full-day Ishinomaki trip to see rebuilding status from 2011 tsunami effects and to visit museum dedicated to Sendai’s mission to the Vatican. Destinations include nursery school, Sant Juan Bautista Museum, Buddhist Dogenin Temple and surrounding communities. 10. 11/25 Hiking the Sendai Castle grounds (During class hour) 11. 12/2 “King” of oyster farming: A youth from Okinawa starts up new industry in Ishinomaki 12. 12/09 “Millennium Hope Hills”—a coastal green embankment and its cultural roots 13. 12/16 Reading novel based on the 17th-century mission to the Vatican 14. 01/13 Student presentation 15. 01/20 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
Warm Hands	Miki Onosaki	Pantaka	2013	ISBN 978-4-938532-34-5	Textbook
Surviving the 2011 Tsunami: 100 Testimonies of Ishinomaki Area Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake	Editorial Office of the Ishinomaki Kahoku	Junposha	2014	ISBN9784845113514	Textbook
Japan: The Story of a Nation	Edwin O. Reischauer	Tuttle Publishing	2012	ISBN 978-4-8053-0666-6	Reference
The Samurai	Shusaku Endo	New Directions Books	1997	ISBN 978-0-8112-1346-2	Reference
Strong in the Rain: Surviving Japan’s	Lucy Birmingham et al	Palgrave Macmillan	2012	ISBN9780230341869	Reference

Earthquake, Tsunami, and Fukushima Nuclear Disaster					
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	-Class enrollment is limited to 25 students. -The university will subsidize part of the cost involved with field trips, 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	2026/09/25				

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.