

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
French and Asian Studies
FALL 2018

JPN2601A-550 (8497)
Cultural Foundation of Modern Japan:
An Introduction to Japanese Civilization

Instructor: Michiya Kawai
Time: Tuesday 08:30-11:30
Place: V-207
Office: A214
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Office Hours: MW: 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

Course Description:

A survey of the artistic, philosophical, and religious factors that shape modern Japan. Taught in English.

Antirequisite(s):

Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.5 course.

Course Learning Objectives:

- To acquire a basic knowledge of Japanese history, cultural heritage, and other “cultural” elements of the modern Japan.
- To develop a critical (and comparative) view toward a “foreign” culture.
- To exercise modern research methods
- To formulate questions and discover the answers

Class Methods:

Introduction to Japanese civilization from historical, geo-political, and cultural perspectives. The course presupposes no knowledge of Japanese civilization. The course begins by listing the characteristics of modern Japanese culture. We will examine how these characteristics have evolved. The course will be conducted through lectures and classroom discussion based upon the reading materials, students’ individual (mini) research, and/or video and other materials. Students are expected to prepare for each class by doing short (preliminary) research.

Required Course Texts:

Varley, Paul. 1973/2000. *Japanese Culture Fourth Edition*. Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press.

Craig, Albert M. 2011. *The Heritage of Japanese Civilization*. 2nd edition. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education/Prentice Hall. (Assigned Parts Available on OWL)

Other reading materials will be distributed in class.

Methods of Evaluation/Assessment:

- There will be two short (approx. 1-2 page) papers, which will constitute 30% of the final grade; these short papers can be revised and resubmitted for reevaluation. Classroom participation (with good preparation) will be 30% of the final grade. The final take-home assignment will be 40% of the final grade.
- Due dates are absolute and late work will not be accepted without a prior approval.
- Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form.
- Students are expected to attend all the classes.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

As a default case, a student will receive an F automatically, if the student misses more than 1/3 of the total class hours (without proper excuses).

Policy on attendance:

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.

Special examination:

A special examination is any examination other than the regularly scheduled examination. Special exams will be allowed only on receipt of medical documentation verifying a serious illness that kept the student from writing the exam as originally scheduled. Such documentation is strictly confidential and kept in the student's file. In the case of missing a final exam for documented medical reasons, a special exam will be set within thirty days.

Special exams will not be granted for occasions such as employment interviews, weddings, bar mitzvahs, family reunions, vacations, misreading the exam timetable, or oversleeping. Neither will special exams be granted in order to facilitate transportation arrangements, such as booking flights for home for Christmas or summer vacations. It is the policy of Huron [University] College to discourage informal arrangements by faculty which circumvent this regulation”

Tentative Schedule of Classes can be found below after FASS Appendix

Program and Academic Counselling

Japanese students registered at Huron who require advice about modules and courses in JPN should contact:

Michiya Kawai, Coordinator for Japanese courses within the Department of French and Asian Studies, mkawai@huron.uwo.ca, A214, 519-438-7224 ext. 330.

For information about other French and Asian Studies, students should contact the Chair of the Department, Dr. Mariana Ionescu, mionesc@huron.uwo.ca.

Students should contact Academic Counselling on other academic matters.

See the Academic Counselling website for information on services offered.
http://huronuc.ca/students/service_centre/academic_counselling/

HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GUIDELINES ON COURSE OUTLINES

UWO Senate regulations regarding course outlines, and scheduling of assignments, tests and exams are found at: (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>)

Of note, these regulations require:

- A written outline of each course offered by the department (or faculty), containing a general description of course content. If the course is taught by more than one instructor, the name of the person responsible for the course (course coordinator) shall be included in the outline.

Note: The policy of the University is that, when a course instructor wishes to change the evaluation procedure, as outlined in his or her course outline at the beginning of the year, prior approval must be obtained from the Dean of the faculty concerned.

The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.

JPN2601A Fall 2018 Tentative Schedule

I Introduction

September

- 11 Defining the questions. What is Japanese civilization/culture?
List and analyze characteristics of Japanese culture.
What are the repeatedly used expressions describing Japan, Japanese people, and their culture?
- 18 Methodological Considerations
What is Japanese civilization/culture?
PV: 1–13
Early Japan: Chapter One: *Origin, Roots* among others (Craig (C)): pp. 1–12).
What was going on in the rest of the world?
Early Japan Neolithic to the *Yamato* Period (Chs 1 & 2). PV: 14–47
What are the characteristics of each period?

II Historical Overview

- 25 Nara & Heian Period (Chs 3 & 4). PV: 48–89
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
What still survives today from these periods?

- 30 (Sun) *First short paper due:*
On characteristics (or stereotypes) of Japanese culture.
This topic is too general, so you have to pick a narrower topic.

October

- 2 Nara & Heian Period PV: 48–89
Middle Age: *Kamakura, Muromachi* (Chs 5 & 6). PV: 91–163
Feudalism, Zen, Noh
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
What still survives today from these periods?
- 09 No Class: Fall Reading Week
- 16 Middle Age: *Kamakura, Muromachi* (Chs 5 & 6). PV: 91–163
Summarize the major changes in these periods
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
What still survives today from these periods?
- 23 Late Traditional Japan: Edo (Chs. 7 & 8). PV: 164–234
European Colonialism, Modernization, Cash Economy
Summarize the characteristics of this period.
What was the implication of the “isolation” policy? Myths and Reality.
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
How does the textbook description differ from the class lecture, and why?
- 28 (Sun) *Second short paper due:*
Discuss cultural characteristics between the Kamakura–Edo period.
This question is too general; you need to pick one topic of your choice.
- 30 Emergence of Modern Japan and Wars (Chs. 9 & 10). PV: 235–303
What was happening in the rest of the world during this time?
Summarize the characteristics of each period covered in this segment.
What is the implication of modernization/westernization of Japan?
What are the implications of WWII?
What are the issues with the standard accounts of this period of the history?

November

- 6 Post-WWII /Contemporary Japan (Chs. 11) PV: 304–351
Describe the characteristics of the US Occupation policy
Describe the role of Cold War
Consider the elements of Japan’s economic success

III Elements of Japanese Culture

- 13 Japonism (Arts)(PPT)
Japonisme
- 20 Post-WWII /Contemporary Japan (TBA)

Popular Culture
Japan and the World

- 26 Post-WWII /Contemporary Japan (TBA)
Popular Culture
Japan and the World

December

- 3 Wrap-Up: Japan today
Japan today (TBA)
Find any relevant information on those topics

18 (Tue) *Final Assignment Due:*