



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

RJ courses in English:	2013-2014	
	Fall 2013	Spring 2014
Comparative Culture	o	
History of U.S.-Japan Exchanges	o	
Intercultural Communication	o	
Introduction to Japanese. Folklore	o	
Japan. Seen in Real Time		o
Japanese Art	o	
Japanese Cinema		o
Japanese Classical Dance		o
Japanese Cultural Exchanges		
Japanese Culture	o	
Japanese Economy	o	
Japanese Literature		o
Japanese Management I and II	o	
Japanese Photography	o	
Japanese Politics*		
Japanese Society (SL)	o	
Japanese. Women's Literature		
Modern Japanese History		o
Modern Japanese. Literature	o	
LCI: Multilingual Interaction		o
Political Geography of East Asia*		
Postwar Business and Finance		o
Premodern Japanese History	o	
Sino-Japanese Relations*		
STJS: Doing Fieldwork in Japan (SL)		o
STJS: Japan through Historical Fiction	o	

*These courses will be taught again during the 2014-15 academic year as the professor will be on sabbatical. All courses except Multilingual Interaction are 4 credits. Multilingual Interaction is 2 credits.

Fall Course Descriptions

Comparative Culture (Fall)

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of society, culture, and ethnic diversity in contemporary Japan by contrasting it with the United States. The course begins with an overview of the natural environment, geography, history, and other general aspects of Japan. Then it examines cultural and ethnic diversity in Japan and the United States, including such issues as language, minority rights, and immigration policies. Students learn about contemporary issues shared by both countries. By taking a comparative approach, the course helps students achieve a better understanding of contemporary Japan to facilitate better communication with people of different backgrounds.

Course Plan

- Week 1: Course introduction/ Geography and general aspects of Japan
- Week 2: Cultures and values
- Week 3: The Images and the realities of Okinawa
- Week 4: Reconsidering the discourse of Japaneseness



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Weeks 5-6:	Modern Japanese culture and society
Week 7:	International migration and theories of migratory process
Week 8:	Chinese Communities in Japan and the United States
Week 9: "	New comers" and Japanese society
Week 10:	Field trip (to be arranged)
Week 11:	Japanese Americans in the United States
Week 12:	"Nikkeijin" in contemporary Japan
Week 13:	Hispanic immigrants in the United States
Week 14:	Review
Week 15:	Final examination & Final paper due

Grading Criteria: Grading will be based on class attendance and participation (35%), a midterm report (30%), and a final examination (35%).

A: 90-100% B: 80-89% C: 70-79% D: 60-69% F: below 60%

More than 4 unexcused absences will result in failure to receive credit for this class.

History of U.S.-Japan Exchanges (Fall)

This course explains the political and cultural creative tension between Japan and the United States over the past century and a half. It traces the evolution of political and cultural exchanges between the two countries through four main phases: 1) early encounters between Japanese and Americans from the 1840s to the 1860s, 2) adaptations that Japanese and Americans began to make to accommodate each other between the 1860s and the 1890s, 3) elaborations and adaptations of Western civilization under the influence of the United States, and 4) competition between the United States and Japan before, during and after World War II. The course is primarily lectured based, but some time is also devoted to discussions about primary source readings in English. Assignments include class discussions, a midterm exam and a final exam.

Course Plan

01	Course introduction; Early encounters
02	Early encounters between Japanese and Americans
03	Shipwrecked fishermen and whalers
04	American Commodores: Biddle and Perry
05	Consuls: Townsend Harris
06	Japanese ambassadors: 1860 Japanese mission to the US Early adaptations
07	Imperialism and the Meiji Restoration
08	American merchants in Yokohama
09	American missionaries: James Hepburn
10	Japanese journalists: Joseph Heco and Kishida Ginko
11	The Iwakura Mission
12	American interpreters of Japan: E. H. House
13	American advisors to Japan: Horace Capron and Charles LeGendre
14	Fukuzawa Yukichi and political thought
15	Midterm exam
16	Adapting "civilization" for Japan: America and the "bunmei kaika"
17	Inventing tradition: Ernest Fenollosa and Okakura Tenshin
18	Christian schools and American missionaries
19	Japanese Christians: Uchimura Kanzo; and Neejima Jo
20	Japanese students in America: Tsuda Umeko
21	Nationalizing Christianity
22	Nationalizing Zen Competition



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

23	Competition between Japan and the U.S.
24	Ishiwara Kanji's vision of a "Final War"
25	Ambassador Grew and the Pacific War
26-27	The Occupation: Douglas MacArthur and Yoshida Shigeru
28	Akio Morita and Sony
29	Japan's soft power and America
30	Final review

Grading Criteria: Attendance and class participation 30%; Midterm examination 35%; Final examination 35%

Intercultural Communication (Fall)

This course is designed to study communication in an intercultural context, with an emphasis on cultural values, perception, language, and nonverbal messages. The course objectives are:

1. To help understand how different cultural values can influence everyday communication;
2. To increase self-awareness and other-awareness concerning cultural group membership, including ethnicity, and personal identity issues;
3. To compare and contrast different culture-based verbal and non-verbal communication styles;
4. To identify challenges and perceptual biases in intercultural and intergroup relationship development;
5. To cultivate mindful attitude and adaptive competencies in dealing with culture shock issues; and
6. To reinforce respect for the diverse ways of communicating in different cultural situations.

Tentative Course Plan

Class 1	Introduction to the class
Class 2 & 3	What is Intercultural Communication?
Class 4 & 5	Understanding Culture
Class 6 & 7	Deep Structure
Class 8 & 9	Values
Class 10-12	Nonverbal Communication
Class 13 & 14	Language and Culture
Class 15 & 16	Culture shock
Class 17 & 18	Stereotypes
Class 19 & 20	Cultural Influences in Education Setting
Class 21 & 22	Cultural Influences in Business Setting
Class 23 & 24	Intercultural Challenges
Class 25 & 26	Written Project due
Class 27 - 30	Presentations

Introduction to Japanese Folklore (Fall)

Course Goals:

- 1) Learn the central issues of folklore & cultural studies, particularly those related to ritual, material culture, and oral lore.
- 2) Understand what folklorists do and how their work is relevant to understanding of culture.
- 3) Explain and apply major theories of folklore in relation to rituals, material culture, and oral lore.
- 4) Improve cross-cultural communication.



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Grading Criteria

Class Participation 10%; Homework 20%; Mid-Semester Exam 25%; Final Exam 25%; Semester Paper 20%. Grading Scale: 90-100% A / 80-89% B / 70-79% C / 60-69% D / Below 60% F.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory. More than 4 (four) absences will lower your grade by one full grade.

Japanese Art (Fall)

A survey of Japanese art history. The objective of the course is to have students acquire knowledge of the major works, trends and special characteristics of Japanese art, foreign influences, and the effect of religious, historical, and social aspects on art. The course covers the early Neolithic (Jomon) to the Edo period, but also introduces some aspects of the Meiji era. The emphasis is on sculpture and painting, but applied arts such as ceramics and lacquer ware are shown where necessary. Mostly pottery is shown for the prehistoric periods, Buddhist art for the Asuka to Early Heian periods, Buddhist art and secular painting for the Late Heian to Kamakura periods, and various types of paintings for the Muromachi period onward.

Course Plan

Class 1:	introduction
Class 2:	Jomon and Yayoi periods
Class 3:	Tumulus period
Classes 4-5:	Asuka period
Classes 6-7:	Hakuho period
Classes 8-10:	Tempyo period
Classes 11-13:	Early Heian period
Classes 14-17:	Late Heian period
Classes 18-19:	Kamakura period
Class 20-21:	Nambokucho and Muromachi periods
Classes 22-23:	Momoyama period
Classes 24-28:	Edo period
Class 29:	Meiji era
Class 30:	Final examination

Grading Criteria: Final examination (50%), class participation (25%), and in-class activities (25%).

A = Excellent score on the final examination and excellent performance in class.

B = Very good score on the final examination and very good performance in class.

C = Good on the final examination and good performance in class.

D = Passable score on the final examination and passable performance in class.

F = Failing score on the final examination and unsatisfactory performance in class.

Japanese Culture (Fall)

This course will use various ways of talking about culture to introduce students to specific topics in Japanese culture. The five ways of talking about culture that will be used in the course are: 1) cultural appropriation and adaptation; 2) cultural layering; 3) cultural production; 4) cultural practices; and 5) cultural manipulation. The goal of focusing on these different ways of talking about culture is to provide students tools they can use to understand and analyze Japanese culture in a more sophisticated manner. Toward the end of the course students will have the chance to use the tools they have studied in papers they will write about topics in Japanese culture that interest them. Assignments will include one paper, four quizzes and a final exam. There will be two required field trips on Saturdays. The first will be to Yokohama on Saturday, Oct. 16, and the second will be to Kamakura on Saturday, Nov. 6. There will be no class meetings on the Fridays before these field trips.



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Course Plan

Introduction:

01. Course introduction
02. Understanding culture: Appropriation and adaptation; layering
03. Understanding culture: Production; practices; manipulation
04. Problematic concepts and strategies I
05. Problematic concepts and strategies II

Appropriation and adaptation:

06. Language [quiz #1]
07. Religion
08. Field trip to Yokohama
09. Western influence in Japan
10. Art

Cultural layering:

11. Food [quiz #2]
12. Folk crafts
13. Field trip to Kamakura
14. Temples and shrines
15. Architecture

Cultural production:

16. Samurai culture [quiz #3]
17. Theater
18. The "Ways" of Japanese culture
19. Ceramics
20. Woodblock prints
21. Entertainment

Cultural practices:

22. Education [quiz #4]
23. Family life
24. Economics and business

Manipulations of culture:

25. Music
26. Film
27. Anime I [paper due]
28. Anime II
29. Manga
30. Final review

Grading Criteria: Attendance/participation (30%); Paper (25%); Quizzes (4 @ 5% each); Final exam (25%). Attendance policy: students with 6 or more absences will receive fail attendance and participation. Students with 10 or more absences will automatically fail the course.

Japanese Economy

The main theme is to investigate the trade friction in the 1970's, appreciation of the yen in the 1980's, cause of the asset-inflated economy in Japan, new sub-prime loan problems in recent years etc.

Course Plan

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|---------|--|
| Week 1: | Orientation / Historical overview of Japanese economy |
| Week 2: | GDP in IMF data |
| Week 3: | Investment and consumption / Comparison with another countries |



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Week 4:	Economic growth and trade friction in the 1970's
Week 5:	Visiting the Tokyo Stock Exchange
Week 6:	"Virtual" purchase of stocks / Foreign exchange market
Week 7:	Generation of asset-inflated economy in the end of 1980's
Week 8:	Asset-inflated economy & its collapse/Monetary policy & fiscal policy under deflation (1990's)
Week 9:	Review and presentation by students
Week 10:	The Asian monetary crisis of 1997 and Russian monetary crisis of 1998
Week 11:	Sub-prime loan problem / Securitization
Week 12:	Economic policy after the sub-prime loan problem
Week 13:	Global environmental concerns
Week 14:	Japan's Green technology
Week 15:	Term reports

Grading Criteria: Reports and class participation.

Japanese Management I and II (Fall)

These two courses (each offered for two credits) should be taken together as the equivalent of a four-credit course in Japanese Management. The courses focus on management issues, especially in the areas of human resources management and business enterprise management. They use a comparative and international point of view. Students will be asked to make a presentation and participate actively in discussions. Guest speakers from major Japanese companies will be invited.

Course Plan

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Japanese management: past, present, and future
- 3) Cultural evolution of Japanese society
- 4) Changing faces of the workforce
- 5) Women's career development
- 6) Japanese airline industry and its future
- 7) Cultural differences in the hospitality industry
- 8) Japanese managers in overseas subsidiaries
- 9) Information and communication technology (ICT) market in Japan
- 10) Case: automotive company
- 11) Case: electronics company
- 12) Case: construction business
- 13) Case: SME
- 14) Case: airline business
- 15) Report and discussion

Grading Criteria: Presentation 30%; Class participation 10%; Attendance 30%; Report 30%

Japanese Photography (Fall)

This survey course will provide students with an introduction to Japanese photography. The course will enable students to describe significant people and events in the development of Japanese photography. We will examine the work of individuals who have made important contributions to photography in Japan. We will also seek to describe the relationship between photography and historical events that have shaped Japan and the world. Please note that this is not a lecture course and students will be expected to contribute actively in each class.

Course Plan: Please note that this schedule may be subject to change



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Class 1:	Introduction to the Course
Class 2:	Introduction to Course Website and Resources
Classes 3-4:	Visual Literacy: Reading a Photograph
Classes 5-6:	Introduction to Japanese Photography
Classes 7-8:	The Early Years of Japanese Photography
Classes 9-10:	The Origins and Development of Japanese Art Photography
Classes 11-12:	The Age of Modernism
Classes 13-14:	Realism and propaganda
Classes 15-16:	The Evolution of Postwar Photography
Classes 17-18:	Internationalisation, Individualism, Institutionalisation of Photography
Class 19:	Mid semester Quiz
Class 20:	Review
Class 21-29:	Project: Japanese Photographers
Class 30:	Course Review and Feedback

Grading Criteria: Mid-term Quiz: 30%; Class Presentations: 40%; Final Report: 30%

Japanese Society (Fall)

The objectives of this course are:

- (1) To learn how Japan has been studied (as well as portrayed in the popular discourse);
- (2) To understand why Japan has been studied the way it has been studied.

As we pursue these objectives, we also examine the meaning of studying a culture/society/people other than one's own. Why is Japan studied? What kind of experiences do scholars have when studying Japanese society/culture/people? What are the implications of the act of 'studying Japan'—and of ethnographic research in general? How have the products of Japanese Studies influenced and shaped lay people's perspectives on Japan? We explore these questions by reading materials from various sources: e.g., anthropological textbooks for undergraduates, newspaper articles, a 1950 guidebook for American soldiers heading to Japan as a member of the Occupation Forces, contemporary essays written by social scientists about their experience 'doing fieldwork' in Japan. While reading the texts, we pay close attention to when, by whom, for whom, and for what purposes they were written and examine the process by which Japan emerged as a subject of both academic and popular discourse. In addition to reading, analyzing and evaluating the texts, students are required to be engaged in their own 'field' activities and present them in class.

Course Plan

SECTION I: INTRODUCTION & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- Week 1 Introduction to the Course
- Week 2 Society, Culture and the Individual
- Week 3 Social Scientific Studies on Japan after WWII

SECTION II: JAPAN AND THE STUDY OF THE 'OTHER'

- Week 4 Japan as the Enemy
- Week 5 Occupied Japan
- Week 6 Japan as the Exotic Other
- Week 7 The Nature of 'Nihonjinron'
- Week 8 Challenging Prevalent Discourses
- Week 9 Ethnographic Endeavors and Their Repercussions

SECTION III: EXPERIENCING JAPAN

- Week 10 Doing Fieldwork in Japan
- Week 11 Finding Your Topic
- Week 12 Navigating Yourself (& Your Research) in New Settings



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Week 13 Positionality and Reflexivity
SECTION IV: STUDENTS' PRESENTATIONS
Week 14 Students' Presentations & Discussion
Week 15 Students' Presentations & Discussion / Final Paper due

Grading Criteria: Grades will be based on the completion of all of the following: Attendance and Participation 20%; Assignments 25%, Project Final Presentation 20%, Project Final Paper 35%.
A: above 90 B: above 80 C: above 70 D: above 60 F: below 60

Modern Japanese Literature (Fall)

This course will introduce students to Japanese experience of modernity expressed in personal narratives, a special type of literature. These narratives, including memoirs, autobiographies, letters and personal essays, provide uniquely personal ways of understanding Japan. The readings will focus on Japan's change from a feudal society into an industrialized nation. The themes will include the Meiji restoration, the war, women's position, social class, minorities, subculture and other aspects of Japan. Discussions will compare and contrast the many different views of Japan to understand the larger themes from the personal point of view.

Course Plan: This schedule may change according to student needs.

Class 1	introduction
Classes 2-5	The politics of social transformation
Classes 6-8	Women and modernity
Classes 9-12	The war experience
Classes 13-15	Ethnic minorities and modernization
Classes 16-17	Everyday lives lived and lost
Classes 18-19	The marginal and the underworld
Classes 20-21	Entertaining the popular imagination
Classes 22-23	Spiritual discontent
Classes 24-25	Laboring body
Classes 26-27	Toward the contemporary
Class 28-29	Review and Final exam preparation
Class 30	Final exam paper due; course feedback

Grading Criteria

Reading Responses 40%; Final Exam Paper 40%; Attendance and class participation 20%
A: rewarded for excellence in fulfilling all course requirements; B: able to fulfill all required assessments with good quality; C: able to fulfill most of required assessments; D: able to fulfill minimum requirement of course work; F: unable to fulfill minimum requirement of course work
Note: More than 30% of absences will severely affect the final grade.

Premodern Japanese History (Fall)

This course provides an overview of premodern Japanese history, focusing on political, social, economic, and cultural developments. The lectures follow a chronological format and cover all periods through the middle of the nineteenth century. Assignments include a class museum trip, online homework, and class discussions, in addition to the usual midterm and final examinations.

Course Plan

01.	Introduction
02.	Japan's Geography
03.	Overview of Japan's History
04.	The Preceramic and Jōmon Periods



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

05. The Yayoi and Kofun Periods
06. The Origins of the Japanese State
07. Discussion Session
08. Early Relations with the Continent
09. The Tumultuous Seventh Century
10. Nara-Heian Political History
11. Aristocratic Culture
12. The Ancient Japanese Economy
13. The Warrior Class and the Kamakura Shogunate
14. Field Trip to Sagamihara City Museum
15. Discussion and Review Session
16. Midterm Examination
17. The Fall of the Kamakura Shogunate and the Muromachi Shogunate
18. Medieval Culture
19. Medieval Warlords and Warfare
20. Medieval Society and Economy
21. Medieval and Early Modern Foreign Relations
22. Discussion Session
23. Unification and the Bakuhan State
24. The Early Modern Status System
25. Early Modern Culture
26. Early Modern Rural Society and Gender
27. Early Modern Thought and Education
28. The Terminal Tokugawa Crisis and the Meiji Restoration
- 29, 30. Discussion and Review

Grading Criteria: Attendance (25% of grade); Class participation and homework (25%); Midterm examination (25%); Final examination (25%)

Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Japan through Historical Fiction (Fall)

This course examines how important twentieth-century Japanese authors depicted their country's history. The genre of historical fiction has always enjoyed great popularity in Japan, and it contributes significantly to the shaping of people's image of their own past. Excerpts of novels will be analyzed not as literature but as historical documents. Novels selected for assigned reading treat aspects of ancient, medieval, early modern, and modern Japanese history.

Course Plan

- 1 What Is Historical Fiction?
- 2 The Nara State and Buddhism as Depicted by Inoue Yasushi
- 3 The Heian State and Buddhism as Depicted by Shiba Ryotaro
- 4 Tendai and Shingon as Depicted by Shiba Ryotaro
- 5 Politics, Gender, and Belief in Spirits in Heian Japan as Depicted by Enchi Fumiko
- 6 The Vicissitudes of Medieval Life as Depicted by Mori Ogai
- 7 The Warring States (Sengoku) Period as Depicted by Inoue Yasushi
- 8 Feudal Unification as Depicted by Yoshikawa Eiji (1)
- 9 Feudal Unification as Depicted by Yoshikawa Eiji (2)
- 10 Christianity and Early Modern Japan as Depicted by Endo Shusaku (1)
- 11 Christianity and Early Modern Japan as Depicted by Endo Shusaku (2)
- 12 The Way of the Warrior as Depicted by Yoshikawa Eiji (1)
- 13 The Way of the Warrior as Depicted by Yoshikawa Eiji (2) and Inagaki Hiroshi



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

- 14 Popular Entertainment and Gender in the Late 16th and Early 17th Centuries as Depicted by Ariyoshi Sawako
- 15 MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- 16 Family Relations in Early Modern Japan as Depicted by Ariyoshi Sawako
- 17 Low-Ranking Samurai as Depicted by Fujisawa Shuhei (1)
- 18 Low-Ranking Samurai as Depicted by Fujisawa Shuhei (2) and Yamada Yoji
- 19 Samurai Tales by Shiba Ryotaro
- 20 Bakumatsu Japan through the Eyes of a Shipwrecked Fisherman as Depicted by Ibuse Masuji
- 21 Bakumatsu Japan as Depicted by Shiba Ryotaro
- 22 Meiji Japan as Depicted by Shimazaki Toson
- 23 Meiji Japan as Depicted by Tokutomi Roka
- 24 Taisho and Early Showa Japan as Depicted by Shiroyama Saburo
- 25 Taisho and Early Showa Japan as Depicted by Agawa Hiroyuki
- 26 The Atomic Bomb and Its Consequences as Depicted by Ibuse Masuji
- 27 Kamikaze as Depicted by Agawa Hiroyuki
- 28 The Allied Occupation of Japan as Depicted by Yoshimura Akira (1)
- 29 The Allied Occupation of Japan as Depicted by Yoshimura Akira (2)
- 30 The Atomic Bomb and Its Consequences as Depicted by Nakagawa Keiji

Grading Policy: Attendance and class participation 25%; Midterm examination 25%; Paper 25% (analysis of a company in postwar historical perspective; minimum 1200 words) Final examination 25%

Spring Course Descriptions

Japan Seen in Real Time (Spring)

The objectives of the course are to assist students in understanding what is happening in Japan and what makes Japan tick. We will cover all areas of Japan and her people, including but not limited to politics, business, social matters, show biz, sports, etc.

Course Plan

Every week each student is required to read one article in an English language newspaper in Japan (# of articles may differ depending on the number of students enrolled in the class), summarize it (them) and write a short comment on the article. He/she will then present the content and his/her reaction to the article to the class. The instructor will initiate and lead discussion regarding the article(s). Topics are decided by students according to their interest.

Grading Criteria

Article summary and in class presentation 50%; Participation in class discussions 20%; Term paper or final examination 30%. Grading scale: A- 90% or higher, B- 80% or higher, C- 70% or higher, D- 60% or higher, F - below 60%

Japanese Cinema (Spring)

This course gives students an opportunity to enter into the dynamics of Japanese cinema. Engaging Japanese films from important directors across time periods and various genres, it will focus on the relationship between film and culture. Students can learn how to analyze and appreciate the aesthetic principles and socio-cultural implications of the most important Japanese films.

Course Plan: NB: This schedule may change according to student needs.

Class 1 Introduction



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Classes 2-4	Conventions and aesthetic sensibilities in Japanese film
Classes 5-7	The spirit of the samurai
Classes 8-9	Japanese femininity
Classes 10-11	The trauma of war
Classes 12-14	Families and social change
Classes 15-16	The world of the yakuza
Classes 17-18	Love: variations of a theme
Classes 19-20	Living on the borders of society
Classes 21-22	Song of youth
Classes 23-24	Obsession with horror
Classes 25-26	The appeal of anime
Classes 27-28	Contemporary social problems
Class 29	Review
Class 30	Final exam paper due; course feedback

Grading Criteria: Written responses 40%, Final paper 40%, Attendance and participation 20%.

Japanese Classical Dance (Spring)

The aim of the course is to introduce and offer authentic cultural experiences in Japanese classical dance (kabuki buyo). The course will consist not just of lectures but also actual participation and practice, wearing kimono, of the various movements (shosa) used in dance performances. Through the lectures and activities students will learn how to appreciate traditional Japanese drama, including Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki and Bunraku. Familiarity with dance movements and gestures will also help students participate more meaningfully and elegantly in Japanese tea ceremony and other traditional arts.

Course Plan

- Week 1: Introduction, Pre-assessments, Getting ready to "get dressed" in Kimono
- Week 2: Introduction to Kabuki/ Practice Wearing Kimono -- Visit to Kimono Shop
- Week 3: Stage and Audience/ Practice Correct Posture/ Fundamentals of Bowing and Standing/ Kamae/mitate with ougi , sensu (fan)
- Week 4: Drama and Dance/Posture and Bowing check (rei ni hajimari rei ni owaru)
- Week 5: Nihon Buyo Repertoire
- Week 6: Quiz "1 Auditory and Visual Aspects/kamae check
- Week 7: Sencha tea lesson (to be explained and prepare for this special session)
- Week 8: Fundamental movements/ Upper Body/Lower Body, Short History, Kabuki and Kabuki Dance
- Week 9: Quiz #2 Practice Movements: Walking/ Hands & Fingers, Shoulder Aesthetic Bases
- Week 10: Fundamentals of Props/ Fans, Towel, Umbrella Handlings
- Week 11: Matsunomidori Study/ Eye Movements
- Week 12: Fujimusume Study
- Week 13: Rehearsal and dance skill tests (individual and group)
- Week 14: Final Presentations
- Week 15: Evaluations. Oral Reviews & Discussions

* Please note: All Ss need to be present at the 1st meeting--it is very important as number of sessions are limited and Ss must learn to be "dressed" on time to practice at every meeting.

Grading Criteria: 2 Short Quizzes 10% each; Group Presentation 40% 2 attendances at theatre performances 15% each (any of Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki , Bunraku or dance recitals) Submit tickets or programs; 10% Summary of and comments about one performance (1~2 pgs.)



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Japanese Literature (Spring)

This course will introduce students to Japanese literature through readings of translated texts in different genres and styles. Representative works will be selected from different time periods to help students understand the principles and implications of Japanese aesthetics and literary sensibilities. Students will study the essence of Japanese literature through observations of its formal characteristics as well as thematic concerns, such as continuity and change. The course will also frame ideas and expressions in relation to a broader understanding of Japan in general. Comparisons with Western literary expressions and narrative concerns will also be addressed during the course. Film adaptations of important works will be used to present a wider scope of understanding.

Course Plan: NB: This schedule may change according to student needs.

Class 1	Introduction
Class 2	The Tales of Genji (chapter)
Class 3	The Pillow Book (selections)
Class 4	Other literary journals
Class 5	Ihara Saikaku
Class 6	Early popular fiction
Class 7-8	Bunraku plays
Class 9-10	Akutagawa Ryunosuke
Class 11-12	Tanizaki Junichiro
Class 13-14	Natsume Soseki
Class 15-16	Kawabata Yasunari
Class 17-18	Mishima Yukio
Class 19	Enchi Fumiko
Class 20	Takahashi Takako; Kanai Mieko
Class 21	Oba Minako
Class 22	Abe Kobo
Class 23	Oe Kenzaburo
Class 24	Murakami Haruki
Class 25	Shimada Masahiko
Class 26	Tawada Yoko
Class 27-29	Review and Final exam preparation
Class 30	Final exam paper due; course feedback

Grading Criteria

Reading Responses 40%; Final Exam Paper 40%; Attendance and Class Participation 20%
A: excellence in fulfilling all course requirements; B: able to fulfill all required assessments with good quality; C: able to fulfill most required assessments; D: able to fulfill minimum requirement of course work; F: unable to fulfill minimum requirement of course work. Note: More than 30% of absences will severely affect final grade.

Modern Japanese History (Spring)

This survey course will introduce students to 19th- and 20th-century Japanese history. The course begins with a brief introduction to politics, society, thought and diplomacy in Japan between 1600-1800, Then it explores the tumultuous 19th century, when domestic conflict and imperialist pressure produced a political revolution and a profound and unsettling transformation in politics, economics, social organization and thought. Next, the course explores the 20th century, a time marked by social instability, foreign aggression, wartime destruction and economic recovery. The



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

course will be primarily lectured based, but some time will also be devoted to discussions about primary source readings (in translation). Assignments include class discussions, a midterm exam, a final report and a term paper.

Course Plan

01. Course introduction
02. Japan in East Asian context
03. Transformation in Europe
04. The institutions of the Tokugawa regime
05. Intellectual changes in the early 19th century
06. Economic and social change
07. Japan encounters the "barbarians"
08. The mid-century diplomatic crisis
09. Political revolution
10. Toward a modern government
11. Cultural and intellectual transformation in the Meiji period
12. Constitutional politics
13. Economic transformation in the Meiji period
14. Midterm exam
15. War with China and Russia
16. The Japanese colonial empire
17. Economic development, social change and popular protest
18. Contesting modernity
19. Politics by assassination
20. The slide into war with China
21. The Pacific War
22. Ending the war
23. The Occupation
24. Conservative politics
25. Postwar economic growth
26. The cost of high growth
27. The end of the "Cold War". Term paper due
28. The "bubble economy" and "regime shift"
29. Japan in the 21st century
30. Review. Final report due

Grading Criteria: Attendance and class participation (20%); Midterm examination (25%); Final report (25%); Term paper (30%) (4-6 pages; on a topic chosen by the student). Attendance policy: students with 6 or more absences will receive a failing grade in attendance and participation. Students with 10 or more absences will automatically fail the course.

Multilingual Interaction (2 credits) (Spring)

This course is for students of various linguistic and cultural backgrounds (i.e., native and nonnative speakers of Japanese). There is no requirement for Japanese proficiency level. Through a variety of activities, students learn roles played by both linguistic and non-linguistic communication elements and the ways to communicate in situations where ordinary interactive resources are limited or unavailable. Students teach their native languages (or other languages) to nonnative speaking class participants. Through a variety of activities, they expand their perspectives and develop communicative competence needed in a multicultural society.



Reconnaissance Japan
J. F. Oberlin University
Course Descriptions: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Course Plan

- 01 Introduction to the course
- 02 What is “culture”?
- 03 “Nonverbal” communication (1)
- 04 Being exposed to and learning a new language
- 05 “Nonverbal” communication (2)
- 06 Communication strategies
- 07 Rules and communication
- 08 Context, inference, association
- 09 What is intercultural communication competence?
- 10 Conflict in intercultural encounters
- 11 Variations within one language, language and power, identity/identities
- 12-14 Presentations
- 15 Wrap-up

Grading Criteria: A \geq 90 B \geq 80 C \geq 70 D \geq 60 F < 60

Breakdown as follows: Attendance & active participation in and contribution to class activities: 30% ; Assignments (study records, reflection papers, teaching plans, mini-presentations, reports, etc.): 60%; Final Presentation: 10%.

Postwar Business and Finance (Spring)

This course surveys Japan's rise from devastation at the end of World War II to prosperity and economic power today. It examines the interactions of government and private enterprise, and the organization and activities of financial institutions, general trading companies, manufacturing companies, and associations of business leaders. It includes case studies of entrepreneurs. Students will analyze the current condition of several publicly listed companies and banks.

Course Plan

- 1 The Starting Point: The Structure of the Wartime Economy and the Economic Devastation Wrought by War
- 2 What Was the Point of Zaibatsu Dissolution? What Was Business and Finance Like between 1945 and 1951?
- 3 Regulation and Recovery in the Last Years of Occupation and Early 1950s; Impact of the Korean War on Japan
- 4 General Trading Companies
- 5 Banks—The Sectors of the Banking Industry
- 6 Manufacturing
- 7 Employment Patterns and Labor Relations
- 8 Saving and Consumption
- 9 Industrial Policy: MITI in the Era of High Economic Growth
- 10 Business Organizations: Keidanren and Keizai Dōyūkai
- 11 Business Groups: Keiretsu and Kigyō Shūdan
- 12 Matsushita Yōnosuke and His Legacy
- 13 Toyota and the Rise of the Japanese Automobile Industry
- 14 Sony
- 15 MIDTERM EXAMINATION
- 16 Large-Scale Industry and Small-Scale Industry / Infrastructure (Re)Building and the Construction Industry
- 17 Railroads: National and Private
- 18 International Trade



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- 19 Affluence and the Expansion of the Domestic Consumer Economy
- 20 "Japan Inc." and the Overseas Expansion of Japanese Manufacturing Corporations in the 1970s and 1980s
- 21 Trade Friction
- 22 The Heyday of the Japanese Banks
- 23-24 Company Analysis 1
- 25 The "Bubble Economy"
- 26-27 Japan's Financial Crisis 1
- 28 Compensation of Executives and Workers
PAPER DUE
- 29 The Debate over Economic Partnership Agreements, Free Trade Areas, FPAs, and a Trans-Pacific Partnership
- 30 Recovery and Rebuilding after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

Grading Policy: Attendance and class participation 25%; Midterm examination 25%;
Paper 25% (analysis of a company in postwar historical perspective; minimum 1200 words)
Final examination 25%

Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Doing Fieldwork in Japan (Spring)

Doing Fieldwork in Japan is an interactive, hands-on ethnography and service course that allows students to investigate the local community and learn to collaborate with various people. Students will need to use both Japanese and English for communication. Japanese and international students are teamed to collaborate on small fieldwork projects. Throughout the semester, there will be class field trips, lectures by the instructor or special guests, individual field activities (e.g., interviews with local people, attendance at local events, visits to significant local facilities, and class discussions. Through fieldwork projects, students explore subjects of interest. Most students continue as a 'fieldworker' throughout the semester, always carrying the field notebook and a camera even outside the classroom. Students are required to keep a "Field Diary" in which they should record their field activities – both the team's and individual's – as well as reflections and insights.

Course Plan

- Week 1 Introduction to the course
- Week 2 Team-Making & Lecture ("What is Fieldwork?")
- Week 3 Lecture ("Tools for Fieldwork")
- Week 4 Field Activity Day #1
- Week 5 Field Reports & Discussions
- Week 6 Field Activity Day #2
- Week 7 Guest Lecture
- Week 8 Field Reports & Discussions
- Week 9 Field Activity Day #3
- Week 10 Field Reports & Discussions
- Week 11 Lecture on Satoyama
- Week 12 Field Activity Day #4
- Week 13 Field Reports & Discussions
- Week 14 Reflections on the Fieldwork and Course
- Week 15 Presentation of Your "Field Diary"

Grading Criteria: S (Satisfactory) or U (Unsatisfactory). Grades are based on performance throughout the semester, including the quality of team/individual fieldwork, participation in and contribution to the class activities, and the "Field Diary" submitted at the end of the semester.