



COURSE DESCRIPTION:

JAPAN THROUGH THE ERAS: ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY

This course is specially designed to offer students an insight into the history and significance of traditional and classical Japan, as well as introducing students to the vibrancy and variety of Japan's hybrid traditional society. It aims to provide an inspirational energy that will assist students, no matter their major, in both creative and critical substance. Lectures and studios orientations will prepare students to place in artistic and historical context their impressions gained during the many field trips and excursions. The course journal and goal objectives will allow for work in creative writing/sketching/photography, and critical essays. A literature and social survey will provide students with examples of early to modern Japanese moral, artistic and literary attitudes. The full immersion the course entails, along with academic and practical orientations, will help students to gain a truly meaningful understanding of the nation's overall relationship between its classical traditions in art, literature and religion, and its modern way of life. This course can be taken independently during the summer session in Kyoto, or can be taken as a compliment to the Cool Japan course in Tokyo, which provides a look into the subsequent modern aspects of Japanese culture.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Lecture 1: Ancient Japanese Geography, Society and Myth, Jomon and Yayoi Periods, Sources of Ancient Japanese Traditions, Creation Myths and Impact

Lecture 2: Kofun Period, Centralization, Characteristics under the Yamato Kingdom, Influence of Shinto

Lecture 3: Influence of China, Introduction of Buddhism, *ritsuryo* system, Soga family contributions, Manyoshu Discussion

Lecture 4: Class Trip to Todaiji Temple in Nara with Nara Period Discussion

Lecture 5: Heian Culture, Religion and Literature, Tendai, Shingon, Jodo Sects, Fujiwara family, Shoen Rituals

Lecture 6: Japanese Calligraphy Workshop and excursion to Heian Temple and Arts and Crafts Center

Lecture 7: Kamakura Bakufu and Feudal Japanese Culture, Genpei War, Zen, Nichiren, Buddhism, Heiki Monogatari, Hojo Family, Mongol Invasion attempts, No, Kyogen

Lecture 8: Muromachi and the Golden Age of Japanese Art Japanese Temple and other architecture



Lecture 9: Excursion to Ginkakuji and Kinkakuji Temples with Discussion and Field Work Response Activity

Lecture 10: Early encounters with Europe and unification, part 1 of Tokugawa, Black Ships

Lecture 11: Tokugawa Transformations, Bakuhan system and Sankin Kotai (alternate attendance), Sakoku (Closed Country), Rangaku (Dutch learning), Genroku Culture: kabuki, bunraku, Ukiyo-e, Rakugo, Haik, Neoconfucianism, Kokugaku, Christianity

Lecture 12: Meiji and Modernization, Constitution, Women's Role in Society, International Relations and Military Development, Development of Modern Literature: Soseki, Ogai

Lecture 13: Taisho Period, Ero-Gugu-Nansensu, Yasunari Kawabata and literature between the wars, Economic Crisis and Social Changes, Taisho Political and Artistic Movements

Lecture 14: Road to War and the Pacific Arena of WWII, Manchukuo, Expansion into Asia, Culture of Militarization, Pearl Harbor and Defeat

Lecture 15: Student Presentations