Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies
Course Descriptions
Academic Year 2012-2013

JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

During both fall and spring semesters, all students take Japanese language, which is offered at three levels.

x = fall course; y = spring course

Japanese KC4205x or 4206y. Third year Japanese. 8 points. Prerequisites: Japanese 1201/1202 or the equivalent. Placement will be determined by testing.

This Kyoto-based course prepares students to function beyond the basic level in a Japanese- speaking environment by developing and enhancing communicative competence through reviewing basic grammar and learning new grammar; reading short essays and articles with the help of a dictionary; completing short writing and speaking assignments using the formal style to describe, explain, and discuss socio-cultural topics; and enhancing listening comprehension.

Japanese KC4217x or 4218y. Fourth year Japanese. 8 points Prerequisites: Japanese 4005/4006, 4205/4206, or the equivalent. Placement will be determined by testing.

This Kyoto-based course emphasizes applications of correct grammar and strengthens academic communication skills by reading longer essays, articles, and novels with some dictionary work; completing reading and writing assignments in paragraph format using the formal style to describe, explain and discuss socio-cultural topics; and developing listen comprehension.

Japanese KC4221x or 4222y. Fifth year Japanese. 8 points Prerequisites: Japanese 4017/4018, 4217/4218, or the equivalent. Placement will be determined by testing.

This Kyoto-based course is tailored to individuals of advanced proficiency. Goals include advanced command of grammar, composition, and stylistics. Emphasis on academic Japanese prepares advanced language students to audit classes at a Japanese university, if appropriate.

KCJS COURSES

FALL 2012

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 1. Exploring Language and Food in Kyoto: 京都を味わう. 4 points. Lindsay Yotsukura

This course investigates how local Kyoto food purveyors use language to market and present their wares, how they communicate with customers, and how and when customers converse with each other. Students will act as casual "participant observers," making notes on spoken language use by staff and customers, and collecting samples of written language as illustrated in signs and flyers from shops and restaurants they visit during the semester. Class readings and discussions will draw upon the wealth of material in anthropology, history, sociology and ethnography on Japanese food culture, as well as relevant topics in linguistics (including semiotics, discourse analysis and pragmatics) in order to explore the intersection of language and food in local practices. The course will include class visits to selected shops, and concludes with a group dinner consisting of dishes students create with foodstuffs purchased through local merchants. *[No previous knowledge of*

linguistics is necessary for the class, but there will be a language co-requisite of placement in the C level Japanese class at KCJS (approximately Intermediate-Mid on the ACTFL scale) or permission of the instructor.]

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 2. The Rise of Modern Japan: Politics of Space and Time. 4 points. Katsu Hirano

This course investigates Japan's transformation into a modern nation-state from the late Tokugawa period (1800) into the 1980s. We will pay special attention to a variety of discourses that reveal Japan's self-understanding of its ambiguous place in the modern world: its sometimes aggressive seeking after values and modes of Western modernity, and its sometimes uncompromising assertion of cultural distinctiveness as it refused to assimilate to the world dominated by Western modernity. Key questions include: What were the historical conditions that drove Japan to embark on rapid modernization? How did Japanese society understand radical changes taking place in its values and ways of life? And what effects did the pursuit of modernization have on the development of Japanese politics, especially when Japan became deeply involved in the war in Asia and then against the West?

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 3. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Families and Work in Post-war Japan. 4 points. Scott North

This course surveys outstanding examples of English language social science research on Japan to introduce developments in post-World War II Japanese social life. Using studies of families and work, we will analyze factors that promoted both change and continuity in the social division of labor between these interdependent spheres. Our aim is to grasp how the cultural strategies for organizing contemporary Japanese social life were conditioned, first by rapid industrialization and growth, and later by relative economic stasis. We will pay attention to class, gender, and regional variations in work and family life, as well as to the role of social psychology in Japanese responses to work-family conflicts.

East Asian Studies KC3355. Traditional Japanese Theatre: Noh and Kyogen. 4 points. Monica Bethe

The course will investigate Noh drama as a mirror of Muromachi period culture when upper class aesthetics and village entertainment merged to form a lyrical drama with great inner intensity, a masked performance of music and dance. The plays reflect a broad literary heritage and assume Buddhist precepts of reincarnation and retribution for previous sins. They draw on a variety of performance traditions such as Shinto ritual, court dance, harvest festivals, exorcism rites, and narrative entertainment. Through close reading of representative plays and first-hand experience of performance, we will investigate the world view reflected in Noh. Discussions will turn also to the wider context of world drama and to the dramatic theories of the men who created Noh.

East Asian Studies KC3333. Kansai Area Art. 4 points. Karin Swanson

The Kansai area, in particular the "golden triangle" formed by the cities of Kyoto, Osaka, and Nara, has been for most of Japanese history the center of the highest level of art production in the country. The dominant artistic role of Kansai was established in the tomb mounds of clan leaders from the 4th century, and continued on until political power and much artistic patronage shifted to Edo in the 17th century.

Assuming no prior experience in art history, the goal of the class is to maximize the experience of looking at Kansai art, much of it in its original context, focusing primarily on secular and religious painting and sculpture. Each of five chronological units will consist of readings, looking at examples of art in that period, and class discussion of issues influencing its production. Following this will be field trips to some of the most important sites studied, including temples, gardens, and museums.

SPRING 2013

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 1. Japanese in Action: Language Use in the *Anime* of Miyazaki Hayao. 4 points. Lindsay Yotsukura

This course examines the Japanese language in action, as utilized by the multitude of characters depicted in the *anime* films of Miyazaki Hayao. We will consider how language usage can vary depending upon a range of situational factors, for example, relative social distance between participants, type of interaction or event, in/out group membership, and attitudinal stance toward the topic of discussion. Readings, class discussions, and homework assignments will first consider English examples from everyday conversation in order to introduce a number of fundamental linguistic concepts, and subsequently apply them to Japanese excerpts drawn from Miyazaki's works. Special attention will be paid to how the linguistic behavior of a character contributes to his or her overall portrayal and identity in a film. Our discussions will also include comparisons of English translations in film dubbings and subtitles with the original Japanese in order to consider how various social actions such as requests, apologies, and invitations may be conveyed in the two languages. We conclude with group-based multimedia projects on related topics developed and presented by the students. *[No previous knowledge of linguistics is necessary or assumed for this class, but there will be a language co-requisite of placement in the B level Japanese class at KCJS (approximately Intermediate-Low on the ACTFL scale) or permission of the instructor.]*

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 2. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Kyoto Artisans and their Worlds. 4 points. Instructor TBA.

One of the attractions of the ancient capital of Japan is the variety of fine and applied arts that continue to feed the city. Geographically these include the textile workshops of Nishijin in the northwest of the city, the ceramic workshops in the southeast around Gojozaka, and the web of artisans supporting the traditional artist guilds: pigment producers, papermakers, stencil cutters, gold and silver foil craftsmen, carvers and printers. Through visits to studios and museums, the course will seek to give the students first-hand experience of not only the crafts, but also their changing role in supporting the lifeblood of Kyoto as a city. Weekly lectures and readings will provide historical, cultural, and technological background for each topic. Students will be expected to choose a personal focus to explore in depth and to present this to the class. *[Note: Enrollment may be limited for this course due to the small size of many studios.]*

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 3. Power, Culture, and Transformation in Premodern "Japan". 4 points. Katsu Hirano

This course covers the history of the various peoples living in the Japanese archipelago from 1200 to 1800. The history of pre-modern Japan often is presented as a story of the origins and development of a homogeneous ethnic group called the Japanese and of a unified Japanese nation. Our emphasis, instead, will be to look at the many different ways that people identified themselves -- with "Japanese" being only one of many possible categories -- and how such multiple identifications engendered conflict and dynamic power relations in society. The present-day Japanese will be understood not so much as the result of a natural progression from the past to the present but as the result of struggles in which heterogeneous social groups or individuals sought to live their lives in a variety of creative ways.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 4. History and Memory in the Nanking Massacre and the Comfort Women Discourses 4 points. Katsu Hirano

This course is designed as a forum for students to critically discuss ethical, political, and epistemological problems in the historical representation of the Nanjing Massacre and the "comfort-women" system of military sexual slavery. History is normally understood as the faithful reconstruction of the past based on factual data. This normative (empiricist) conception presupposes that history can reveal the *truth* about the past, an approach that overlooks the reality that historians not only *select* facts but also *interpret* them according to their perspectives, judgments, and criteria informed, often unknowingly, by their political, ideological, and social positions. Further complicating the search for historical knowledge is the impossibility of representing the experiences of victims of extreme events such as the Nanjing Massacre.

The course seeks to confront the issues of historical interpretation and the paradox of attempting to speak for people whose experiences have been erased forever from the realm of the representable.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 5. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Lost in Translation. 4 points. Richard Donovan

This course explores Japanese–English translation in written and audiovisual contexts (including literature and film) and considers the transformation of meaning that informs this process. We start by observing how the two languages differ and overlap in terms of grammar, lexis and syntax. The discussion then expands to include socio-linguistic, cultural, and other normative dimensions of translation.

Kawabata Yasunari's novella *Izu no odoriko* and its English translations are our touchstone, to which we will return at various points in the term. After establishing what specific features present translation challenges in this text, we look at the strategies the translators employ to address them. We will also apply these insights to other texts by other authors, both written and (audio)visual, observing the semantic loss and gain involved in situating such cultural artifacts in a new context. Students will complete regular, short exercises in order to develop their translation skills over the course of the term. Guest speakers and field trips enrich the process of discovery. The major individual project is an annotated translation based on a Japanese short story or other appropriate work.

East Asian Studies KC3402. Gender Issues in Japan. 4 points. Junko Minamoto

Taught in Japanese. The course deals with "the house system" and "the legalized prostitution system" in modern Japan. Women's issues in Japan are related intimately to those of men and are discussed in that context. Lectures about "the private sphere" include marriage, gender division of labor, child bearing, contraception, "delivery health," domestic violence, etc. We also consider how "the private sphere" is influenced by "the public sphere," including politics, economy and culture. Each class focuses on a theme and a set of materials. Students are required to read the materials and express their views.

East Asian Studies KC3998. Independent Study. 4 points. Staff

Independent study may be undertaken by full-year students in the spring semester, offering the opportunity for focused research using the Japanese language and taking advantage of local resources. Independent study normally involves directed reading and research, meeting weekly with a chosen advisor, and the writing of a final research paper. It will be permitted only for students whose language skills are adequate for the proposed research. Application must be made in the fall semester, and involves consultation with the director of KCJS and/or the KCJS Professor, arranging for an advisor in the area of interest, either from the KCJS staff or from the local academic and professional community, and submitting a clearly conceived plan of study with a proposed schedule and bibliography of readings and resources. In special circumstances, independent study may be jointly supervised by a faculty member from the student's home campus and a member of the KCJS

staff in Kyoto. Independent study is particularly useful for formulating and gathering materials for a senior or honors thesis.