

Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies
Course Descriptions
Academic Year 2011-2012

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 2011

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 1. The History and Culture of Japan. 4 points. James McClain

This course is a broad-based survey of the cultural, political, and economic history of that country beginning with the formation of a distinctive Japanese lifestyle in prehistoric times and continuing to the present. Throughout the course, our focus will be on understanding the culture (defined as the fundamental values and aspirations) of Japanese who lived in various historical periods and analyzing their attempts to create particular political, social, and economic systems that would give life to their dreams, beliefs, and ambitions. In addition, we will pay special attention to how inclusion in the East Asia cultural zone and, later, interactions with the West impacted on domestic events.

We will pursue these goals by analyzing key pieces of textual evidence as well as several varieties of cultural production (art works, architecture, fiction, and films) in order to develop the skills needed for

historical analysis and to broaden our understanding of how Japanese in different eras engaged the world around them. A key part of that process involves becoming familiar with the questions and theoretical frameworks that historians use to interpret the past, and the approaches they take to written documents and other forms of evidence. An equally important goal of the course is for students to learn how to clearly articulate their own conclusions and historically-informed arguments in written form and in discussions.

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 2. 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 course.]

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 3. Outside the Mainstream: The Minority Experience in Japan. 4 points. James McClain

When Japan ratified the United Nations' International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1979, its representative reported, "The right of any person to enjoy his own culture, to profess and practice his religion or to use his own language is ensured under Japanese law. However, minorities of the kind mentioned in the Covenant do not exist in Japan."

Nothing could have been further from the truth. At the turn of the new millennium, Japan is — and for a long time, has been — home to immigrants from abroad, indigenous populations that have been forced to accept Japanese citizenship, outcast communities of Japanese ethnicity, and otherwise ordinary persons who have elected to live outside the mainstream. This course offers an historical analysis that examines how these minority communities came into existence, struggled to maintain distinctive lifestyles in what is often viewed as one of the world's most homogenous societies, and influenced the flow of Japanese history.

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 esthetics 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 KC3993. Section 4. 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 KC3340. Japanese Economic Growth and Business Development. 4 points. Takashi Hikino and Asli Colpan.

This course combines lectures, student presentations, guest lectures, films and field trips to offer a comprehensive review of major issues concerning the history, structure, and operation of the Japanese economy and business. Special emphases are placed on structural and institutional factors that affect the maturity and decline of Japan's international competitiveness since the early 1980s. The course is non-technical and does not assume a systematic knowledge of economics; but students are encouraged to have internationally-comparative, yet nationalism-free, and historically-sensible perspectives to gain a balanced picture of the Japanese economy and business.

SPRING 2012

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3994. 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, and how they communicate with customers. 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, and literature on Japanese food culture, as well as relevant topics in linguistics. 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.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 2. Japan in the Middle Ages. 4 points. James McClain.

In the Western historical lexicon, the terms “middle ages” and “medieval” often conjure up images of backwards and stagnation. During its *chūsei* epoch (中世時代) from the end of the twelfth century to the middle of the sixteenth, however, Japan pulsated with political, economic, and cultural creativity. This course will explore the following topics central to Japan’s medieval revolution: (•) the construction of new forms of political authority, namely the samurai-led shogunate, (•) the emergence of fresh cultural norms, including warrior values and the ethos of the detached hermit, (•) the appearance of Zen and popular religious sects, (•) the intersection of innovative “Zen arts” (especially noh drama, landscape gardening, and the tea ceremony) with samurai government to form a kind of rule by “soft-power,” (•) a new visibility of commoners and women in written and visual records, and (•) interactions with other peoples in Asia that ranged from trade to piracy to invasive warfare. The class will make extensive forays into Kyoto’s medieval past to investigate these themes.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 3. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Kyoto Artisans and their Worlds. 4 points. Monica Bethe.

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.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 4. Politics and Political Economy of Japan. 4 points. Charles Weathers

This course surveys the post-World War II politics and political economy of Japan. Along with basic political institutions such as party politics and voting systems, we will examine policymaking related to economic development, employment, and equal opportunity. A major theme will be the apparent disjuncture in policymaking performance before and after 1990. Policymaking actors (including government and major corporations) appear to have been highly successful in leading the country from its marginal position in the 1950s to economic superpower status in the 1980s, yet Japan has since fared poorly in generating “decent work” and supporting families.

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 if 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.

East Asian Studies KC3402. Women's 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.