

Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies Course Descriptions Academic Year 2008-2009
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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 2008

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 1. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Modern Japanese Literature

4 points. Sarah Frederick.

A survey of Japanese prose fiction from the Meiji period to the present including works by authors such as Mori Ogai, Natsume Soseki, Tanizaki Jun'ichiro, Hayashi Fumiko, Kawabata Yasunari, Mishima Yukio, Oe Kenzaburo, and Murakami Haruki. Will consider the development of national and regional languages and identities, including the role of Kansai culture in modern Japanese literature.

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 2. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Japanese History Through Film and Other Texts

4 points. James Ketelaar

We will screen, for example, Mizoguchi's 1955 *Shin Heike Monogatari* (*Tales of the Taira Clan*), we will also then read selections from the *Heike Monogatari*, itself (an oral text compiled c. 15th century) as well as modern interpretations of the events and characters depicted in these different "versions." With these various materials to hand, and coupled with field trips to related locations, we will then ask: how does "history" actually work? What is at stake in these differing (re)presentations? What does this tell us about how "Japan" has been conceived and constructed? How do "visual texts" work as compared to "oral texts" or "written documents"? How do we assess historical veracity?

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 3. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Japanese Popular Literature and Culture

4 points. Sarah Frederick.

The course introduces major genres of Japanese popular literature and culture along with methods for analyzing popular materials in their historical and cultural contexts. Topics covered include the role of genre categories, the relationship between "pure" and "popular" literature (*jun bungaku* and *taishū bungaku*), the Korea popular culture boom, the war in popular culture, and gender. Primary materials include genre films, detective fiction, Takarazuka theater, popular music, anime, and manga. Research projects using original language materials is encouraged.

East Asian Studies KC3340. Japanese Growth and Business Development

4 points. Takashi Hikino

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.

East Asian Studies KC3333. Kansai Area Arts

4 points. Karin Swanson

The Kansai area, and in particular the "golden triangle" formed by the cities of Kyoto, Osaka and Nara, has, for the majority of Japanese history, been the center of Japanese art production. Beginning with the art found in tomb mounds of 4th century leaders, the area's predominance in art continued with only minor interruptions until power and patronage shifted to Tokyo in the 17th century.

This is an introductory-level course designed to maximize the experience of looking at Kansai area art, much of which can still be seen in the original locations. Focusing primarily on painting and sculpture, the class is divided into two basic units: the first will be readings and classroom discussion

of the cultural, religious and political context in which local art was produced. Secondly, field trips will be taken to places, such as temples, covered during the class.

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.

Spring 2009

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 1. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Raku Raku Kyoto

4 points. James Ketelaar

How did "Kyoto" emerge as a capital city? After looking at domestic and international comparisons, this course examines the 1200 plus years of this complex and dynamic city. By turns looking at sculpture, painting, architecture, archeology, politics, economics, warfare, religion, and geo-politics and by incorporating hands-on exploration treks and personal mappings, we will collectively write our own "history of Kyoto."

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 2. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Political Economy of Japan: Continuity and Changes

4 points. Ikuo Kume

This course is designed to introduce students to the political economy of contemporary Japan. After studying Japanese political development and state building, the course will focus on basic political institutions, such as political parties, bureaucracies, and parliaments, and look into their roles in the political process. Having some ideas about the Japanese political system, we will try to answer two major questions about the political economy of Japan: (1) How did Japan succeed in achieving economic growth and political stability? and (2) What went wrong in the 1990s? The purpose of this course is to demystify "Japanese uniqueness" and analyze Japan in a comparative perspective.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 3. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Lost in Translation

4 points. Sarah Frederick

An introduction to the art and practice of translating literary texts from a variety of periods and genres. We will study strategies for translation and discuss relevant essays on translation by literary translators and theorists. Previous notable translations of Japanese literature will be discussed in connection with the original texts, and students will develop their own personal translation projects.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 4. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: The Japanese Woodblock Print: Ukiyo-e into Hanga

4 points. Claire Cuccio

Print artists, connoisseurs, critics, scholars and prevailing visual culture over the centuries have transformed Japanese woodblock prints commonly known by their descriptive Edo-period term as ukiyo-e into what today is considered a fine art referred to as hanga. This course will examine the print's perceived plebian origins in realms such as entertainment and advertising to the adaptation of the medium to the Meiji period's burgeoning publishing industry and to its elevation as a medium of fine art. To differentiate between early and modern permutations of the medium, we will first experience the applied techniques of printmaking, and throughout the course, examine numerous concrete examples. We will then explore the artistic, social, economic and global significance of prints from the Edo period to the present, within Japan and across to China and the West. In order to comprehend the various permutations of the form, we will also visit local exhibitions featuring Edo, modern and international prints.

East Asian Studies KC3628. Japanese Religion in Context. Religion and Modernity in Japan
4 points. Okada Masahiko.

This course explores the emergence of "modernity" in Japan by tracing shifts in the styles of religious, cultural and social writings in and about Japan. By reading those texts, we will seek to interpret religious consciousness as found in Japan today. Readings will vary from philosophical works to topics in art and architecture. Class trips will be made to various religious and cultural institutions in the Kansai area.

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.