

Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies Course Descriptions Academic Year 2009-2010
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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 2009

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 1. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Japanese Civilization. 4 points. Ayako Kano

What are the main features of Japanese civilization, in what contexts did they develop, and how do they function in today's world? What do contemporary Japanese people think of their own culture and tradition? What are some of the important debates and controversies about

Japanese history and culture? This course is a survey of Japanese civilization from the "stone age" to the present that attempts to answer some of these questions through lectures, discussions, readings, and analysis of visual materials.

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 2. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Japanese Theater. 4 points. Ayako Kano

In this course, we will examine the Japanese theatrical tradition in its historical and comparative contexts. The readings and discussions will cover all areas of the theatrical experience (script, acting, stage design, costumes, music, audience). Audio-visual materials will be used whenever available and appropriate. Field trips to performances of both classical and contemporary theater will be arranged.

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 3. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Kyoto: The Past in the Present. 4 points. Henry Smith

This course explores Kyoto from many angles, as a way of getting all of us to observe and experience the city directly, and to think about the changing connections between past and present. Each assignment requires you both to explore on your own and to visit particular places, always asking questions from Japanese whom you encounter. Among the topics of exploration are: nature in the city; the Kyoto street plan; the survival of *Genji monogatari* in Kyoto; traces of Hideyoshi; Raku tea ceramics; Buddhist cemeteries; neighborhood Jizo shrines; local festivals; public baths; and the Biwako Canal. The emphasis of the course is on direct personal exploration of the city today in order to grasp its long and complex history.

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 4. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Kyoto Houses and the Japanese Lifestyle. 4 points. Bettina Langner-Teramoto

This course will be an introduction of the culture of Kyoto and the Kansai area by looking at the built environment with a focus on housing and its historical and cultural background. Japanese housing architecture made a distinct contribution to the world history of building styles, reflecting the status and culture of different members of the society. A chronological overview of the major periods of Japanese history starting from Heian period towards the present provides the framework to look at characteristics of Japanese architecture: asymmetry versus symmetry, relation of inside and outside, ambiguity of space, living with the seasons. These design features are reflected in contemporary housing projects as well. The classes will be in a seminar style combined with excursions, providing first hand experience of the architecture discussed in the textbook. Direct exploration of the city is also encouraged by creative projects which will be part of an architectural guidebook including all the class work.

East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 5. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Japanese-American Cultural Interchange in a Global Age. 4 points. Keiko Ikeda

This will be a joint seminar with Japanese students from Doshisha University, focusing on the ways in which Japanese culture carries to America, and American culture carries to Japan, particularly in popular culture. We will study theories of cultural globalization, and topics such as Hello Kitty, hip-hop, sushi, Macdonald's will be used as a lens to understand the complex processes of cultural interactions. Special emphasis will be placed on the discussions of changing boundaries of Japanese and American cultures, identity productions, issues of nationalism, and creativity and play. The classes will be in seminar style, combined with fieldtrips to the sites where we can observe and experience firsthand the ways "American" cultures are incorporated in various Japanese contexts. (e.g., American Oldies Bar, Country Western Festival). Members of the classes will work with Japanese partners to produce ethnographic studies of cultural phenomena that span Japan and America and give presentations at the end of the semester.

East Asian Studies KC3340. Japanese 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 2010

Students choose two courses from the following:

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 1. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Postwar Fiction and Film. *4 points.* Ayako Kano

This course examines fiction and film in postwar Japan, from 1945 to the present. Topics will include literary and cinematic representation of Japan's war experience and post-war reconstruction, negotiation with Japanese "tradition," exploration of alternative political ideologies, and changing norms of gender and sexuality. We will explore these and other questions by analyzing texts of various genres, including film and film scripts, novels, short stories, and academic essays. Special attention will be given to cinematic "adaptations" of postwar fiction.

East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 2. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Political Economy of Japan: Continuity and Change. *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.* Henry Smith

This course is for those who enjoy reading Japanese and writing English, and who wish to improve their skills in both. It is both a hands-on course in the art and practice of translating Japanese into English, and an opportunity to think about what really is "lost in translation" as well as what is gained. We take short examples of academic prose, fiction, reportage, essays, and poetry as our texts, with all members of the class producing their own versions, and comparing these line by line. At the same time, each chooses a final translation project from an early stage, hopefully dealing with some topic related to Kyoto and its culture, so that we can take field trips that relate to individual projects. We also along the way read various theoretical essays about translation, and meet with practicing translators to learn from their experience. This course is intended primarily for those in the higher levels of Japanese language study, but those in lower levels may be admitted with instructor's permission.

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. 4 points. Catherine Ludvik

Filled with over two thousand temples and shrines, Kyoto provides the ideal setting for the study of Japanese religions. This introductory course will survey the development of Shinto, Buddhism and the New Religions of Japan in historical as well as contemporary context. Topics discussed will include Shinto mythology, the transmission of Buddhism to Japan, the teachings, rituals, and practices of the Japanese schools of Buddhism, mountain asceticism, pilgrimage, funerary and memorial rites, and the emergence of New Religions. Drawing on the religious landscape of Kyoto and nearby sites, classes will be supplemented with organized fieldtrips, and student assignments will be based both on readings as well as on temple/shrine visits and first-hand observance of rituals, festivals, and other religious activities.

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.