



Landmark College Summer 2016 Japan Study Abroad

Course: Intersections of Art and Culture: Japan/ AT2019

Instructor: Christie Herbert

Dates: June 11-July 2

Course Description

The primary goal of this course is to help students understand and experience the link between the culture and art of Japan. Students will receive a grounding in basic background knowledge on Japanese culture and history, and key theories on the inextricability of art and culture, while immersing themselves in Japanese culture and art. They will quickly build their understanding of the art and culture of Japan via direct experience, observations, and reflection, as well as via seminars, lectures, and readings. As their time in Japan progresses, students will move steadily toward a deeper understanding of how fundamental cultural precepts are manifested in the art of the country and finally to examples of ways in which art has shaped or will shape the culture of the country. Students will be expected to link course content, seminar lectures and discussions, and readings to their direct experiences in Japan.

Key Course Modules

- How the Geography of Japan has Shaped Its Culture
- Core Japanese Cultural Values
- Japanese Food
- Shintoism
- Buddhism
- Japanese Language
- Japanese History
- Key Art Forms of Japan
- Cultural Elements of Japanese Design & Art
- Japanese Aesthetic Principles

Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to

1. Articulate their understanding of the key aspects of Japanese culture emphasized in the course, including its geography, food, language, values, customs, religion and history
2. Provide clear examples from their experiences in Japan to underscore their understanding of Japanese culture
3. Explain several ways in which Japanese culture is manifested in its art and design
4. Explain and illustrate aesthetic principles and themes in Japanese art and design
5. Provide clear examples of design principles manifested in Japanese art and culture
6. Identify how particular art forms they study are expressions of the culture of Japan
7. Explain how they approached the study of a particular piece of art, and what they learned from the engagement in that art.
8. Produce three projects or take three essay tests that elucidate their understanding of course-specific themes, theories and vocabulary
9. Compare and contrast their own cultural values/customs with those of the Japanese
10. Engage in a daily reflective process that integrates theoretical frameworks and readings with personal experience and observation.
11. Examine how their understanding of their own art and culture has been impacted by the course
12. Provide specific examples of the inextricability of art and culture
13. Synthesize learning into a final presentation with four power point slides that represent the essential learning from the trip, both personal and academic

Major Methods of Assessment

- **Reading Assignments(30%):** Students will be required to do readings from the course pack, and pull out the main information and key passages from each assigned reading to share in seminar discussions
- **Projects/Tests (30 %):** Students will be required to complete three major projects during the trip on 1) Japanese Culture 2) Japanese Art & Culture, 3) Final Project/Synthesis of Learning. Students may opt to take an essay test instead of doing projects 1 and 2. Each project will be an in-depth examination of the assigned topic and include writing, documentation/examples, and an exploration of personal experiences in Japan that elucidate the topic.
- **Culture & Art Blog (15 %):** This assignment will require that students submit several blog entries in which they document their direct experiences via writing and photographs or other art media

- **Active Engagement, Participation & Field Work (25 %):** Students will participate responsibly in all aspects of the course including class discussion, individual/group activities, and field trips.

Texts and Materials

Course Pack Readings Table of Contents

1. Mente, Boye De. *Etiquette Guide to Japan: Know the Rules That Make the Difference*. Rutland, VT: C.E. Tuttle, 1990. Print.
 - Etiquette as Morality, pages 10-12
 - Origins of Japanese Etiquette, pages 13-15
 - The Role of Harmony, pages 15-17
 - The Vertical Society, pages 18-19
 - Dining Etiquette, pages 41-45
 - Using and Surviving Public Transportation, pages 60-63
2. García, Héctor. *A Geek in Japan*. Tokyo: Tuttle Pub., 2010. Print.
 - The Delights of Japanese Cuisine, pages 78-79
 - An Extremely Brief History of Japan, pages 10-11
 - The Ancient Bushido Code: The Way of the Warrior, page 15
 - The Intricacies of Japanese Language, pages 12-14
 - Tokyo's Various Districts, pages 128-145
3. Sosnoski, Daniel. *Introduction to Japanese Culture*. Rutland, VT: Tuttle, 1996. Print.
 - Chanoyu: Tea Ceremony, pages 18-19
 - Yakimono: Pottery and Ceramics, page 22
 - Nihonga: Japanese Paintings, page 23
 - Shodo: Calligraphy, page 24-25
4. Davies, Roger J., and Osamu Ikeno. *The Japanese Mind: Understanding Contemporary Japanese Culture*. Boston: Tuttle Pub., 2002. Print
 - Wabi-Sabi: Simplicity and Elegance as Japanese Ideals of Beauty, pages 223-229
 - Bigaku: The Japanese Sense of Beauty, pages 35-38
5. Graham, Patricia Jane. *Japanese Design: Art, Aesthetics & Culture*. Rutland, VT: Tuttle, 2014. Print.
 - The Aesthetics of Japanese Design, pages 9-59
 - Religious Values and Japanese Design, pages 70-79
6. Richie, Donald. *A Lateral View Essays on Culture and Style in Contemporary Japan*. Berkeley, CA: Stone Bridge, 1992. Print.
 - Japan: A Description, pages 11-17
7. Addiss, Stephen, Gerald Groemer, and J. Thomas. Rimer. *Traditional Japanese Arts and Culture: An Illustrated Sourcebook*. Honolulu: U of Hawai'i, 2006. Print.
 - Introduction, Pages 1-8

Note: I am still determining which chapters/selections to include in the course pack from the following books:

8. Yanagi, Soetsu. *The Unknown Craftsman: A Japanese Insight Into Beauty*. Kodansha, 1972. New York.
9. Tanizaki, Jun'ichiro. *In Praise of Shadows*. Leete's Island Books, Inc. 1977. Sedgwick, Maine.
10. Richie, Donald. *A Tractate on Japanese Aesthetics*. Stone Bridge Press. 2007. Seattle.

11. Hume, Nancy, ed. *Japanese Aesthetics and Culture: A Reader*. State University of New York Press. 1995. New York.