

31040 JAPANESE CULTURE AND ART II

INSTRUCTOR: Tomohiro Taguchi

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The arch formed by these islands can be seen to resemble the cross section of a concave mirror or a huge parabolic antenna, symbolically reflecting the vast continent while at the same time receiving information from it. Looking back on the history of Japanese culture, which developed by accepting diverse cultural influence from the Asian continent, it is an interesting notion to conceive this peculiar shape of the Japanese islands as a symbol characterizing Japan's cultural history. However, the major cultural influences during Japan's more recent history have, especially during the modern period, come via direct contact with Western civilization, which Japan has been eager to accommodate. In a short space of time, Japan adopted and adapted Western models of civilization and culture to form its own brand of culture. By examining various aspects of arts and philosophical thought, this course seeks to account for the development of modernized culture in Japan through its history of exchange with Western civilization.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Modernizing Japan
2. Japonism and Survivorship of the traditional culture
3. The start of modernization in arts
4. The Geisha and their culture in modern Japan
5. The tradition of Ainu and modernization
6. The art scene of the post-war Japan
7. Osamu Tezuka's manga
8. The cinema of post-war Japan
9. A special-effects movie and Eiji Tsuburaya
10. Hayao Miyazaki's animation
11. Re-made versions of Japanese movie
12. Game industries and the creators of gaming

TEXTS

Textbook: None

Materials and references are provided.

Supplementary Materials

Videotapes and slide films using PowerPoint presentations are used as teaching materials

ASSESSMENT

Attendance 25%; Mid-term paper (about 1,500 words) 25%; Final paper (about 2,000 words) 50%