

32070 FIELDWORK RESEARCH METHODS FOR JAPAN II

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Croker

COURSE DESCRIPTION

One of the best ways to discover the many faces of Japan is by going outside the classroom to explore the environments where Japanese people live and work. This course offers you the opportunity to deeply investigate three – a Buddhist temple, an urban landscape, and a mountain village. On three fieldtrips, you will practice the skills of observation, interviewing and documenting that you have developed in class, discover the multitude of resources available for research about Japan, and learn how to creatively portray your research. Taking this course will provide you with the skills to do independent fieldwork in Japan, or any setting, in the future.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Class 1: Introduction to fieldwork research
Class 2: Overview of fieldwork conducted in Japan, and introduction to resources
Class 3: The fieldwork process, and ethical issues of doing fieldwork
Class 4: Observation – preparation for the first fieldtrip
Class 5: First fieldtrip – a Buddhist temple
Class 6: Reflections on the first fieldtrip, and how to manage the data that you have created
Class 7: Interviewing – preparation for the second fieldtrip
Class 8: Second fieldtrip – an urban landscape
Class 9: Reflections on the second fieldtrip, and how to make sense of your data
Class 10: Documenting – preparation for the third fieldtrip
Class 11: Third fieldtrip – a mountain village
Class 12: Reflections on the third fieldtrip, and how to interpret your data
Class 13: Creative ways to present fieldwork
Class 14: Student presentations

TEXTS

A reading list will be provided in the first class.

ASSESSMENT

First fieldtrip report 20%; Second fieldtrip report 25%; Third fieldtrip report 30%;
Final fieldwork presentation 25%

JAPANESE LEVEL: IJ300 to IJ700

OTHER PREREQUISITES: High level of reading and spoken proficiency in English, as most of the readings are in English, and classroom discussions will be held in English