LECTURE COURSES IN JAPANESE AREA STUDIES

All lecture courses listed are taught in English by scholars highly qualified in their respective fields, but assignments for some courses may include work in Japanese. Unless otherwise stated, there are no restrictions regarding the level of Japanese that students must possess.

21010  JAPANESE ECONOMY I

INSTRUCTOR: Satoshi Hanai

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course concentrates mainly on Japan’s economic performance since the end of World War II, with emphasis on international comparison. After a brief introduction to the process of Japan’s economic development before World War II, the course focuses on a number of issues pertaining to the Japanese economy in the post-war period. Topics covered in the course include: long-term economic development since the Meiji Restoration, post-war macro economic performance (including the “High Economic Growth” period), consumption and saving, the labor market, Japanese-style industrial relations, public finance, banking, and living conditions.

This course does not assume any knowledge of economics on the part of students. Those who are interested in obtaining some background in economics can find standard textbooks in the University Library.

COURSE GOALS
• Be able to give a brief description of the history of the Japanese economy since the Meiji Restoration.
• Be able to explain the mechanism of Rapid Economic Growth.
• Be able to explain the primary causes of Japan’s stagnant economy since the early 1990s.
• Be able to make clear suggestions regarding how to revitalize the Japanese economy.

COURSE SCHEDULE
I. Introduction
II. Modern Japanese Economy
   A. Japan’s long-term economic development (Drysdale and Gower, pp. 61-69)
   B. Post WWII macroeconomic performance (Yoshikawa, pp. 19-26)
   C. Understanding the period of high economic growth: Was it a miracle? (Yoshikawa, pp. 60-70)
   D. Why is the savings rate declining? (Citrin and Zanello, pp. 31-41)
   E. Industrial relations: permanent employment, seniority-based wages, and company unionism (Flath, pp. 312-322)
   F. Women’s role in the labor market (Flath, pp. 330-334)
   G. Social role of college in Japan (Belfield, pp. 40-47)
   H. Current issues of the Japanese economy
      1. Declining birth rate and aging population
      2. Agricultural policy and food supply (Citrin and Zanello, pp. 220-233)
      3. How to revitalize Japanese industries (Citrin and Zanello, pp. 203-217)
      4. Sustainable economic growth: Which is more important, demand or supply?
   I. Will the sun rise again? The future of the Japanese economy

STUDY OUTSIDE CLASSES
Students are required to regularly read assigned materials and to prepare three reports during the semester.
COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook

Required Readings

ASSESSMENT
Class discussion 30%; Final examination 40%; Reports 30%

AUDITING
Permitted

LANGUAGE USED IN CLASS
English only

22010     JAPANESE BUSINESS I

INSTRUCTOR: Marc Bremer

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is an overview of Japan’s business environment. It covers management, human resources, industrial groups, corporate governance, financial markets and the banking system. The format of the course will be the lecture method supplemented by class discussions. Lectures, assignments and research materials will be in English. Course grades will be determined by participation, quizzes, a presentation and a final examination. The topics listed below may be revised to better match the interests of the students enrolled in the course.

COURSE GOALS
- Learn what makes Japanese business special.
- Gain an understanding of Japanese human resource management, decision making, finance, governance and industrial structure.
- Understand the strengths and weaknesses of the Japanese approach to business.
- Prepare to work in a Japanese-style organization.

COURSE SCHEDULE (and suggested reading)
1. Introduction
   o Zero Preparation Lecture
2. Background of the Japanese Economy
   o Ito: Chapters 1 (Introduction to the Japanese Economy) and 2 (Historical Background of the Japanese Economy).
3. Economic Growth
   o Ito: Chapters 3 (Economic Growth) and 4 (Business Cycles).
   o Hoshi and Kashyap: Chapter 4 (The Keiretsu Era).
4. Labor Markets
   o Hasegawa: Chapters 1 (Special Features of Japanese Management) and 2 (People-Centered Management).
   o Debroux: Introduction, Chapters 1 (The Post-War Ideology of Work), 2 (The Basis of the HRM System) and 3 (The Catalysts of Change).
   o Moriguchi and Ono: Chapter 1 (Japanese Lifetime Employment) in Blomström and La Croix.
5. The Japanese Firm
   o Aoki and Dore: Chapters 1 (Introduction) and 14 (Equality-Efficiency Trade-offs: Japanese Perceptions and Choices).
   o Hasegawa: Chapters 3 (Harmony, Consensus and Decision Making), 4 (Middle Managers and De Facto Leaders), and 5 (Japanese-Style Planning and Personnel Management).
   o Ohtsu and Imanari: Chapters 1 (The Convergence-Divergence Debate and Japanese Management) and 2 (Characteristics of Japanese Business and Management).
   o Porter, Takeuchi and Sakakibara: Chapter 3 (Rethinking Japanese Management).
   o Milhaupt: Chapter 4 (A Lost Decade for Japanese Corporate Governance Reform: What has Changed and What Hasn’t and Why) in Blomström and La Croix.

6. Industrial Policy
   o Ito: Chapter 7 (Industrial Structure and Policy).

7. The Automobile Industry
   o Liker: Chapters 2 and 3 (Toyota Production System).
   o Womack, Jones and Roos: Chapters 3 (Rise of Lean Production) and 4 (Running the Factory).

8. Banking System
   o Aoki and Dore: Chapter 11 (Hoshi: The Economic Role of Corporate Grouping and the Main Bank System).

9. Stock Markets
   o Aoki and Dore: Chapter 12 (Sheard: Interlocking Shareholdings and Corporate Governance in Japan).
   o Chew: Chapters 19 (Aoi: To Whom Does the Company Belong? A New Management Mission for the Information Age) and 21 (Kester: The Hidden Costs of Japanese Success).

10. Deregulation
     o Carlile and Tilton: Chapter 3 (Miyamajima: The Impact of Deregulation on Corporate Governance and Finance).

11. Financial Distress
     o Cargill: Chapter 5 (Japan’s Economic and Financial Stagnation in the 1990s and Reluctance to Change) in Blomström and La Croix.

12. Restructuring Cases
    o Japan Airlines
    o Sharp
    o Sony
    o Otsuka Kagu

13. Governance Cases
    o The Case of Olympus
    o The Case of Daio Seishi
    o Japan’s New Corporate Governance Code

    o Schaeide, (2008), selected portions depending on each student’s interest.

15. Student Presentations
16. Final Examination
COURSE MATERIALS
1. Textbooks
   The main reading material will be distributed in class.

2. Required Readings

3. Readings Related to Lectures

4. Supplementary Readings
   Vogel, Ezra, (1979) *Japan as Number One*.

ASSESSMENT
Class Participation 10%
Individual Presentation 30%
Short Section Exams 20%
Final Examination 40%

OTHER PREREQUISITES
The only prerequisite for this course is interest in Japanese business.
AUDITING
All students are welcome to audit this course. Students are welcome to attend all of the lectures, or only those lectures in which they have an interest.

LANGUAGE
This course will use the English language.

24010 JAPANESE FOREIGN POLICY

INSTRUCTOR: David M. Potter

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Japan emerged from World War II a defeated and occupied country. By the 1980s it had restored itself to the status of a great economic power but one that appeared to lack commensurate political power. The end of the Cold War presented Japan both with the possibility of moving beyond its postwar foreign policy foundations and a series of new challenges it had not faced previously. This course will survey modern Japan’s foreign policy, with an emphasis on the postwar era. It will examine the key themes and challenges of Japan’s foreign policy, decision-making processes and institutions, and Japan’s relations with key external actors. This course will conclude by asking what kind of power Japan exercises and how we should think about its place in the international system.

COURSE GOALS
By the end of the course the student will have accomplished the following:
- Grasp the essential issues in Japan’s postwar foreign policy.
- Understand the institutions of foreign policy making in Japan.
- Be able to assess the strengths and weaknesses of competing positions in debates on Japan’s foreign policy.

COURSE SCHEDULE
1. The nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
   Readings: Yoshihide Soeya, Masayuki Tadokoro, and David Welch, “Introduction” in JANC?
2. Foundations of Postwar Foreign Policy: the Yoshida Doctrine postwar political structure: the 1955 system, key actors in foreign policy making
   Readings: David Potter, Evolution of Japan’s Postwar Foreign Policy.
3. The end of the Cold War (?) and Japanese foreign policy
4. Instruments of foreign policy – security policy
5. Midterm exam
6. Instruments of foreign policy – economic policy, foreign aid
   Readings: Potter, Japan’s Development Assistance.
7. Relations with the United States
   Readings: Richard Samuels, Wing Walking: the U.S.-Japan Alliance, Global Asia, 2009; Thomas Wilkins, Japan’s Grand Strategy and New Strategic Partnerships; handouts of key documents.
8. Relations with Asia, Part 1
9. Relations with Asia, Part 2
10. Relations with the United Nations and other international organizations
    Readings: TBA.
11. Conclusions

Readings: Samuels, Chapter 7.

REQUIRED READINGS
Fukushima Akiko, Japan’s ‘Proactive Contribution to Peace’, 2014.
Thomas Wilkins, Japan’s Grand Strategy and New Strategic Partnerships, 2014.
Other brief handouts will be provided as topics require.

ASSESSMENT
Class participation is expected and is worth 20% of your course grade. There will be one mid-term examination, worth 40% of the course grade, and a final paper, worth 40% of the course grade.

31020 JAPANESE CULTURE
LANGUAGE AND SOCIETY IN JAPAN

INSTRUCTOR: Nanako Machida

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The goal of the course is to heighten students' awareness and understanding of the relationship between the Japanese language and Japanese society (or culture) by exploring topics that facilitate the learning of Japanese. The main issues covered include (1) Japanese women’s language and the roles and status of women in Japan, (2) keigo and Japanese society, (3) the concept of uchi/soto, (4) empathy and the Japanese language, and (5) non-verbal communication.

COURSE GOALS
• Acquire a basic knowledge of sociolinguistics and characteristics of the Japanese language.
• Understand how and why Japanese women speak differently from men.
• Understand how and why Japanese people use polite expressions in Japanese society.
• Understand how the concept of uchi/soto or empathy is encoded in the Japanese language.
• Know what non-verbal communication means and how it is expressed in Japanese society.
• Know how to choose their own topics of interest and conduct their group projects.
• Be able to present group projects.
• Be also able to write an individual research paper based on what has been learned regarding Japanese society.

COURSE SCHEDULE
1. Introduction to sociolinguistics
2. Some characteristics of the Japanese language (vocabulary, grammar, sound system, writing system, regional dialects, etc.)
3. Japanese women’s language
4. Sexism in Japanese
5. Japanese women’s language and politeness
6. Keigo in Japanese
7. Universality of politeness
8. Keigo and vertical social structure
9. Humbleness in Japanese
10. Group consciousness and the Japanese language (uchi/soto and keigo, giving and receiving verbs, address system, kinship terms, etc.)
11. Yes/no system
12. Aizuchi
13. Non-verbal communication in Japanese

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbook
Reading Package for “Language and Society in Japan” prepared by the instructor.

Supplementary Readings

ASSESSMENT
Class participation and assignments 20%; Group project 10%; Term paper 30%; Final examination 40%

Note: Enrollment for this course is limited and priority may be given to students who need these credits for their majors at their home institution.

31030 JAPANESE CULTURE AND ART I

INSTRUCTOR: Tomohiro Taguchi

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will take a historical view of the culture and art of traditional Japan from the prehistoric age to the Edo period. Focusing on the activity of Imperial court nobles, aristocrats, priests, samurai warriors, merchants, townspeople and some Westerners, the course discusses how they created their culture and art, and how they refined their esthetic sense. The course consists of lectures, the screening of slides and videos, student presentations and class discussion. Moreover, a weekly homework task will be set to deepen the understanding of each topic.

COURSE GOALS
• Understand the domestic and international factors that prompted the development of art and culture of Japan.
• Broaden the range of perception of Japanese culture and art by getting to know the representative objects of each period of time. These will include pottery, painting, Buddhist art, craft work, architecture, Noh, Kabuki, literature and others.
• Understand the traditional esthetic senses which still have an influence upon modern Japan.
• Know the background of historical cities such as Kyoto, Nara, Tokyo and Kamakura.
COURSE SCHEDULE

1. The start of the cultural formation of the prehistoric age (Jomon culture)
   A discussion of the features of Japanese cultural formation, looking at how hunters and gatherers lived in the forest and how they developed the magical sense of beauty. We focus on pottery, clay figurines (dogu) and myth.

2. The cultural progression of the prehistoric age (Yayoi and Kofun culture)
   A discussion of the development of the agrarian society as encouraged by wet rice cultivation and metallic wares from the Yayoi period to the Kofun period, discussing how the people established the centralized country called Wa and how they developed the simple sense of beauty. We focus on pottery, clay figurines (haniwa), wall painting and metallic ware.

3. The dawning of Buddhism and the imitative learning of Chinese culture and art
   A discussion of the impact of Buddhism and how the people reformed political regimes, culture and art under the influence of China, looking at how people acquired Buddhism and Buddhist art during the Asuka period and the Nara period.

4. The development of Buddhist art
   A discussion of the development of Buddhist art by researching important works of Buddhist painting, sculpture and craft, looking at the transition of style and technique within Buddhist art.

5. The political background of aristocrats’ culture in the Heian period
   An overview of the political and cultural transition of the Heian period, focusing on important characters such as emperors, court nobles, aristocrats, monks and samurai warriors. We look at the spread of esoteric Buddhism and Jodo belief and the reason behind the shift from Chinese style culture to kokufu (literally Japanese style) culture.

6. The development of the aristocrats’ culture and Buddhist art
   An introduction to the three cultural stages in the Heian period, discussing the features of each stage, focusing upon several important characters and various fields of art from Buddhist art to literature. It also discusses how aristocrats refined their esthetic sense and how they evolved their art style. We focus on painting scrolls, craftworks and other art works.

7. The development of classical literature
   An overview of the classical literature field from Kojiki to Manyo-shu, and to the Tale of Genji, discussing the mind-set and the esthetic sense of the people of the time.

8. The development of samurai warrior culture
   An overview of the samurai warrior era from the Kamakura period to the Edo period, discussing how samurai warriors came in to power and how they created their cultural style under the influence of Zen Buddhism. We also discuss the realistic art field of the Kamakura period focusing on Buddhist sculpture, portraits and architecture, and also look at the culture of the Nanbokucho period focusing on renga, linked poems and the Zen garden.

9. The development of culture and art in the Muromachi period
   A discussion of the culture of gathering, Zen culture, Noh plays, the esthetic sense of “yugen” and Nanban culture, focusing on the activities of several important characters such as the shogun, Noh players and Westerners. We look at the fields of painting such as Indian ink painting, the Kano school and the Tosa school. Moreover this lecture also discusses how the Noh play was accomplished and analyzes its special features.

10. Culture and art in the Azuchi-Momoyama period
    An overview of the period’s culture and art, focusing on the activity of political leaders Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hideyoshi as well as merchant tea master Sen-no Rikyu. We discuss several important art fields such as paintings, castle architecture and tea ceremony and the aesthetic sense wabi.

11. Culture and art in the Edo period and the aesthetic sense of iki
    An overview of the Edo period’s culture and art, focusing on the activity of the townspeople of Edo City and the Kamikata region (Kyoto and Osaka), discussing how the esthetic sense evolved differently in Edo and kamikata. This lecture looks at the diversity of the painting fields from ukiyoe to abnormal painters’ brush works, and to grotesque paintings.

12. Bunraku and Kabuki
    A discussion of how bunraku and kabuki were developed and how the people enjoyed these theaters. Some selected scenes of bunraku and kabuki programs will be projected on a screen in the class.

COURSE MATERIALS

Textbooks
Materials and references are provided.
Supplementary Materials
Catalog books, videotapes and slide films using Power Point presentations are used as teaching materials.

Required Readings
Some books on Japanese history.

Supplementary Readings
Supplementary readings will be introduced during the lectures.

ASSESSMENT
Class participation 25%; Oral presentation and homework 25%; Final paper (approx: 2,000 words) 50%

32060 FIELDWORK RESEARCH METHODS FOR JAPAN I

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Croker

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course provides you with the opportunity to explore contemporary Japanese culture by doing a practical fieldwork project. Your project could be on topics such as youth culture and identity, the music scene and fandom, Japanese daily life, Japanese religion and traditional festivals, Japanese kindergartens and primary schools, or university clubs and circles. Doing such a project can help make your stay in Japan richly rewarding – you have the chance to really ‘look’, ‘ask’, and ‘listen to’ Japan, combining what you are reading in your textbooks with the experience of investigating the real living worlds of Japanese people.

In the first few weeks of the semester, you will decide on your project topic and research questions, then create a research plan to help you answer them. The next step is to consider how to find participants and develop a trusting relationship with them. From the third class, you will learn how to gather your data, in four ways: by observing people, reading documents, interviewing people, and creating a two-page questionnaire in Japanese. The instructor will help you find your participants and documents, and also people to answer your questionnaire, and volunteer students will help you practice for your interviews.

In the latter part of the semester, you will analyze the data that you have gathered, putting together evidence to answer your research questions. You will also learn how to effectively present your fieldwork findings. In the final class, you will have the opportunity to listen to your classmates’ presentations and reflect on your own research journey.

This class will equip you with a deeper understanding of contemporary Japanese culture and the skills to do independent fieldwork in the future. It will also help you prepare for your graduation thesis, if you are planning to write about modern Japan or contemporary Japanese culture.

COURSE GOALS
- You will discover how to do fieldwork in Japan. You will be able to:
  - Observe people and situations in Japan
  - Find and analyze documents on Japanese websites and in Japanese magazines
  - Informally and formally interview in Japanese
  - Create and analyze a simple two-page questionnaire in Japanese
  - Present fieldwork findings effectively

COURSE SCHEDULE
Class 1 beginnings: the what and how of doing fieldwork in Japan
Class 2 planning: creating your fieldwork research plan
Class 3 people: finding participants, developing a trusting relationship with them, and ethical issues
  - asking and listening: informal interviewing in Japan
Class 4 managing your research: creating research summary sheets
  - looking: doing observations
Class 5 reading: documents, websites, magazines, newspapers, books
Class 6 asking and listening: formal interviewing – the preparation
Class 7 asking and listening: formal interviewing – the interview itself
Class 8 reflecting: individual project research meetings
Class 9 analyzing: observation, document and interview data
   asking: creating a questionnaire in English
Class 10 asking: creating a questionnaire in Japanese
Class 11 presenting: fundamentals of presenting fieldwork
Class 12 analyzing: observation, document, interview and questionnaire data
   presenting: preparing your fieldwork presentation
Class 13 sharing: by the light of the lantern – presentations and reflections on the journey

COURSE MATERIALS
The class text needs to be picked up at the CJS Office on Wednesday September 9th. Please read chapters 1 and 2 before the first class, so we can start discussing culture and how to explore it then. Students will also be provided with readings (books, journal, magazine and newspaper articles) about their own project topics, and are also expected to find their own.

PREPARATION FOR CLASS
For the first half of the semester, each week before class read one chapter to prepare to do the class work (such as how to create a fieldwork research plan, or how to interview in Japanese) and then after class complete unfinished class tasks (such as finalizing your interview questions). In the middle of the semester, do your fieldwork (see the next section), making a research summary sheet for the data you gather, and put it in your research folder. In the final weeks of the semester, prepare a 10-minute presentation, a 2500-word report, and a 500-word reflection about your research journey. Note that there are also optional fieldtrips to observe Japanese festivals on some weekends.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
a) look – ‘observe’ what is happening in the field, and take systematic field notes
course goal: observe at least one setting, and make field notes
b) do – ‘participate’ in what goes on the setting, as much as possible
course goal: participate in at least one event
c) ask – informally and formally interview people, possibly asking them to complete a questionnaire
course goal: formally interview at least three people, recording them if possible
course goal: informally interview as many people as possible
course goal: create and give a two-page questionnaire, if appropriate
d) read – primary source documents (such as the written rules and regulations of a group, their homepage, correspondence from the group to its members) and secondary source documents (articles and books written about that group by other people, such as journalists and researchers).
course goal: read two to three primary source documents, if available
course goal: read three secondary source documents
e) give a 15-minute presentation in the final class
f) write a 2500-word report
g) write a 500-word reflection essay
h) submit your fieldwork portfolio, with:
   research sheets + preparatory notes + data

ASSESSMENT
Research Plan 10% Due: Class 3
Presentation (about 10 minutes) 20% In: Class 13
Fieldwork folder (with your data and notes) 30% Due: Class 13
53010  JAPANESE HISTORY

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Aspinall

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Students taking this course will be introduced to differing perspectives on the modern history of Japan. Starting with an examination of the opening of Japan to trade with the West and ending with the post-war American occupation, this course will chart the modernization of Japan's political and social institutions. Students will be invited to discuss varying interpretations of key events and developments. Controversies which are still the subject of heated debate today will be examined, such as: how democratic was Taisho democracy?; how oppressive was Japanese colonialism?; why did Japan attack the USA in 1941? This is an introductory course that will suit students of all academic backgrounds. No prior knowledge of Japanese history is required.

COURSE GOALS
• Understand how Japan developed from an isolated feudal society into an industrial, imperial power.
• Develop academic skills of analysis and synthesis through researching and writing a presentation and report.
• Learn how to analyze and interpret historical documents and primary sources.

COURSE SCHEDULE
1. Introduction: different approaches to the study of Japanese history
2. Black Ships: Japanese encounters with foreigners of the modern world
3. The revolt against the Shogunate and the Meiji Restoration
4. Social change: urbanization and increased social mobility
5. Political change and the Meiji Constitution
6. The creation of a modern national education system
7. A closer look at education documents (in translation)
8. Taisho Democracy
9. Conflict abroad: war with China and Russia
10. The Colonization of Taiwan, Korea and Manchuria
11. Political change and the growing power of the military at home
12. The road to total war
13. The Pacific War
14. Defeat and the American Occupation
15. Controversies surrounding the study and teaching of Japanese history today

COURSE MATERIALS
There is no textbook for this course. Weekly readings and notes will be distributed in class. There is an excellent selection of Japanese history books available in the CJS section of the library. The instructor will help students find books suitable for their research.
ASSESSMENT
Oral Presentation  30%
Final Paper  50%
Class Participation  20%

AUDITING
Permitted

LANGUAGE USED IN CLASS
English

34020  JAPANESE RELIGIONS I

INSTRUCTOR: Raj Susai

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the religious life of the Japanese people today. In a highly developed and cultured country, Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism, Christianity, folk religions, and new religions co-exist in harmony. The course presents the history and development of religious thought in Japan and provides students with the opportunity to experience the practical side of religion in context in Japan through field trips to a Shinto shrine, Buddhist temple, and a Zen monastery. Please note that auditing is not permitted for this course.

COURSE GOALS
• Be familiar with different Japanese religions.
• Understand Japanese religious traditions and customs.
• Understand Japanese religious behaviours and religiosity.

COURSE SCHEDULE
1. General introduction to religion and an outline of religious thought in Japan and Japanese religions
2. Introduction to Shinto: Shinto religious thought, Shinto and the Japanese way of life, and the influence of Shinto on Japanese society
3. Introduction to Buddhism: Basic Buddhist principles and the Buddhist teachings
4. Major Buddhist schools: Theravada Buddhism and Mahayana Buddhism; Chinese Buddhism
5. Introduction to Japanese Buddhism: Japanese Buddhism and its development through the centuries
6. Heian Buddhism, Tendai Buddhism, and philosophy
7. Pure Land Buddhism
8. The foundation of Kamakura Buddhism and its key features
9. New Buddhism and the birth of new religions in Japan; The second wave of new religions in Japan
10. Religious reform movements: Christianity and Buddhist renaissance
11. Mainstream Buddhism and new religions before and during World War II
12. Zen Buddhism: The Soto, Rinzai, and Obaku schools
13. Field trip to a Shinto shrine and a Buddhist temple
14. Postwar new religions and the future of established religion (Buddhism and Shinto) in Japan
15. Japanese Christianity and native Christian denominations
16. Exam

STUDY BEYOND CLASS-TIME (PREPARATION etc.)
Students should read at least one book that is included in the required reading list and conduct a personal or group field trip either to a Buddhist temple or Shinto shrine.

COURSE MATERIALS
Textbook
Required Readings

Supplementary Readings

ASSESSMENT
Class participation 20%; Mid-term reflection paper 30%; Final report 50%

The reflection paper is based on the material presented in class in the first half of the semester and reflects the student’s own perspectives, thoughts, and reflections. The paper should not be longer than five pages (1,250 words). The final report should be about ten pages (2,500 words) in length. Report topics should be discussed with the instructor.

61030  JAPANESE LITERATURE III

INSTRUCTOR: Hiroshi Hosoya

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course deals with contemporary Japanese literature and focuses on the novels of Haruki Murakami (村上春樹), one of Japan’s most famous modern writers. Texts include one of the best-sellers among Murakami’s works, Norwegian Wood (『ノルウェイの森』1987/9), and his collection of short stories, Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman (『レキシントンの幽霊』1999/10) in Japanese and in English translations, with reference to F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby.

These works are very interesting contemporary novels that have their own impressive mysteries. The aim is to understand and analyze the important parts of the Japanese texts and to gain a fuller understanding of the novels through their English translations. This will be done by examining the elements of expressions and the narrative technique employed, as well as drawing a comparison with other novels and thoughts. Since the course is conducted mainly in Japanese and only partly in English, students are required to have a level of Japanese equivalent to that of NIJ500 or higher. Students may, however, write their assignments and final paper in English. Auditing is permitted.

* Questions can be e-mailed to: hosoya@nanzan-u.ac.jp.
COURSE GOALS
- Acquire a good understanding of Japanese novels.
- Enhance interpretation of texts.
- Create own opinions about texts.
- Develop a good sense of criticism through discussions.

COURSE SCHEDULE
1. Introduction: How to read texts
2. Norwegian Wood
3. Norwegian Wood
4. Norwegian Wood & The Great Gatsby
5. Norwegian Wood & The Great Gatsby
6. Norwegian Wood
7. Norwegian Wood
8. Norwegian Wood
9. Norwegian Wood & Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman & other stories
10. Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman & other stories
11. Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman & other stories
12. Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman & other stories
13. Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman & other stories

COURSE MATERIALS
Textbooks
村上春樹『レキシントンの幽霊』文春文庫 文藝春秋 1999/10 213p ¥457 ISBN 978-4-16-750203-4

ASSESSMENT
Class participation 20%; Assignments 30%; Final paper 50%

63060 SURVEY OF TRADITIONAL JAPANESE LITERATURE I

INSTRUCTOR: Sharif Mebed

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The goal of this course is to provide an overview and understanding of some basic concepts and themes of Japanese culture as they can be found in poetry from various ages. Although literature has changed in form, theme and function from its earliest times to that written today, there may be some concepts that are constant and some that may possibly be unique to Japanese literature and culture. We will try to discover what those may be through readings and class discussions. This course deals with a number of extremely well known works from ancient times through to the Edo period. Some other key themes for discussion include the depiction of class, gender and economic status, as well as the feasibility of applying western concepts of literary theory to Japanese poetry and fiction. We will also see how poetry written long ago (and presumably far from our native lands) can appear strangely familiar, and talk to us in the here and now.

COURSE GOALS
- Gain background cultural knowledge to enable students to analyze ancient poetry.
- Be able to comprehend Japanese traditional aesthetic concepts within Japanese works of literature.
- Be able to formulate opinions about the possible meanings of texts taken up in class and articulate them in short papers and presentations.
COURSE SCHEDULE
1. Introduction to Japanese literature, discussion of background knowledge and an introduction to the historical aspects of the Nara period.
2. Continued analysis of Man’yō-shū: Makura kotoba – Japanese poetics
3. Poems from the Man’yō-shū: Themes of death and love
4. Kokin’waka-shū – The writing of Ki no Tsurayuki
5. Kokinshū – Japanese aesthetic conventions
6. Makura-soshi poetic prose of the Heian period
7. Poetry in the Middle Ages – Ikkyu and others
8. Haiku: The art of minimalism
9. Bashô’s The Narrow Road to the Deep North
10. Other Haiku poets
11. Modern poets
12. Review of Japanese Poetic forms

COURSE MATERIALS
Textbooks
Other readings will be available in the library on reserve.

ASSESSMENT
30% Participation in class discussions; 10% Presentation, 20% Midterm essay; 40% Final essay

PREREQUISITIES
None

AUDITING
Permitted

LANGUAGE USED IN CLASS
English