

Draft Syllabus

EALC 0040: Introduction to Japanese Civilization

Spring 2024 Syllabus

Fulfills EALC major & minor requirements; History and Tradition sector requirement, Cross-Cultural Analysis requirement for College of Arts & Sciences

Class Format:

Weekly Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:15-11:14 am (*not* 90 minutes as indicated in the registrar's schedule).

Weekly Discussion Sections: Fridays at 10:15-11:14 am, and 12-12:59 pm

Professor:

Dr. Ayako Kano: Williams 841

Office Hours: Mondays 2-3 pm and by appointment

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Teaching Fellow:

TBA

(office hours and location info will be posted on Canvas)

Course Description:

This is an introductory course which includes a historical survey and topical discussions of Japan today. 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 society? No prior knowledge about Japan is assumed, and the class will be conducted in English. There will be frequent use of audio-visual material, and scheduled visits to museum collections and exhibits. A selection of optional lectures, films, and activities will supplement coursework.

Course Objectives and Requirements:

The course will enable you to grasp the outline of major historical eras, intellectual and artistic trends, significant material and textual monuments. The course will also enhance effective reading, listening, and writing skills. Assignments and in-class activities will be designed to consciously address these skills. Short essays and exams will allow you to demonstrate your mastery of these skills as well as of the subject matter.

Evaluation will be based on:

Mid-term and Final exams (20% each, for 40% of total grade)

Two essays (5 pages each) (15% each, for 30% of total grade)

Section preparation, attendance, and participation, including Canvas posts (25% of total grade)

Lecture attendance (5% of total grade)

Policy:

Attendance at all lectures and sections is expected.

You may skip one lecture and one recitation with no questions asked. In every case, e-mail your TF before the class notifying them that you will not be present. You are also given one 'bonus card,' which allows you to come to recitation without having had done any reading for that week, again no questions asked. Please inform your TF before class starts, and you will not be asked any questions for that recitation. Any other absence or lack of participation will affect your participation grade.

Canvas discussion: Each week, there will be questions posted on Canvas for discussion. Please post a response to these questions before 9 am on Friday. You may also respond to posts by other students. The quantity and quality of your posts will be evaluated as part of your Section grade. Recommended length: 100-200 words.

Electronic devices: I strongly encourage you to try taking notes **by hand**, since research has shown that this helps learning and retention of information. If you must use an electronic device to take notes, you are hereby asked to refrain from using such devices for any other purposes such as texting, e-mail, social media, etc. If caught using electronic devices for non-course related purposes during class, you will be asked to sing a song in front of everyone. Certain sections of the classroom will be designated e-device-free zones for students who prefer not to be distracted.

Observe **due dates** for written assignments--late work will not be accepted except in cases of certifiable emergency. Appeals of any kind should be submitted to TF in writing.

Topics for the essays will be specified by the instructor. The grading will be based on 1) clarity of the **thesis**, 2) accuracy and effectiveness of **evidence**, 3) persuasiveness and logic of **organization**, and 4) writing **style**. Detailed description and writing guide will be posted on Canvas.

Extra Credit: You can earn extra credit by attending lectures and special events that you consider relevant for the class topic and by writing brief reports (250 words or longer). You should post the report on Canvas "Extra Credit" forum to receive credit.

Readings:

All readings are available on the **Canvas** course website.

Main textbook (purchase of hard copy is highly recommended, but not required):

Nancy K. Stalker, *Japan: History and Culture from Classical to Cool* (University of California Press, 2018)

Readings should ideally be completed before Monday lectures in order to enhance your understanding of the lectures, but they **MUST** be completed before Friday section meetings. The focus of Friday's section discussion will be the primary readings (historical documents, essays and short stories). The main textbook can be skimmed for a fuller understanding of the historical socio-cultural background of the era, and to supplement the information given in the lectures.

Plan for the Semester:

Prelude: What Japan to Study?

Week 1 (01/22, 01/24, 01/26) Introduction to Course and to Japan

Assignment: read the following short articles (access from URL online, or from Canvas) by Friday's section.

Readings TBA

Part I: Overview of Culture and History--seen in relation to current controversies

Week 2 (01/29, 01/31, 02/02) Early Japan: Jomon, Yayoi, Yamato, Nara

NS "Chapter 1 Early Japan," pp.1-27; and "Chapter 2 Forging a Centralized State 550-794," pp. 28-49. [49 pages]

"The Seventeen Article Constitution of Prince Shôtoku," in Sources of Japanese Tradition, ed. William Theodore deBary, Donald Keene, George Tanabe, and Paul Varley, 2nd ed. (New York: Columbia UP, 2001), 1: 50-55. [6 pages]

Excerpts from Robert Borgen and Marian Ury, trans., "Readable Japanese Mythology: Selections from Nihon Shoki and Kojiki," in Journal of the Association of Teachers of Japanese 24.1 (April 1990): pp. 64-73; 81-87. [17 pages]

***** COURSE SELECTION PERIOD (ADD PERIOD) ENDS: Wednesday 1/31.**

Week 3 (02/05, 02/07, 02/09) Aristocratic Taste: Heian

NS "Chapter 3 The Rule of Taste: The Lives of Heian Aristocrats 794-1185," pp. 50-78. [29 pages]

Ivan Morris, trans., The Pillow Book of Sei Shônagon, 2 vols. (New York: Columbia UP, 1967), vol. 1 pp. 1-19 and 266-68. [22 pages]

Murasaki Shikibu, "9. Heart-to-Heart (Aoi)" in The Tale of Genji: Abridged, ed. and trans. Royall Tyler (New York: Penguin, 2001), pp. 162-185. [24 pages]

Week 4 (02/12, 02/14, 02/16) Warrior Rising: Kamakura

NS "Chapter 4 the Rise and Rule of the Warrior Class: 12th-15th centuries," pp. 79-111. [33 pages]

Selections from Heike monogatari, Helen Craig McCullough trans. Genji & Heike: Selections from *The Tale of Genji* and *The Tale of Heike* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 1994). [8 pages]

Week 5 (02/19, 02/21, 02/23) War and Unification: Muromachi

NS "Chapter 5 Disintegration and Reunification: 1460s-Early 1600s," pp.112-143. [32 pages]

Zeami, "Atsumori," in Japanese Nô Dramas, trans. Royall Tyler (New York: Penguin, 1992), pp. 37-48. [12 pages]

"Boshibari, in Selected Plays of Kyôgen, trans. Richard N. McKinnon (Tokyo: Uniprint, 1968): pp. 13-26. [14 pages]

Week 6 (02/26, 02/28) Midterm Week

No readings.

*** Monday 2/26 will be a review session for the midterm.

*** **MID-TERM EXAM: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 DURING REGULAR CLASS TIME.**

*** **DROP PERIOD ENDS TUESDAY 2/27.**

No recitation on Friday 3/1.

*** **SPRING BREAK 3/04, 3/06, 3/08) NO CLASSES.**

Week 7 (03/11, 03/13, 03/15) Official Control and Popular Culture: Tokugawa and Edo

NS "Chapter 6 Maintaining Control: Tokugawa Official Culture, 1603-1850s," pp. 144-173; and "Chapter 7 Edo Popular Culture: Late 17th-mid 19th Centuries," pp. 174-208. [65 pages]

Chikamatsu Monzaemon, "The Love Suicides at Amijima," trans. Donald Keene, in Traditional Japanese Theater: An Anthology of Plays (New York: Columbia UP, 1998), pp. 333-363. [30 pages]

Part II: Modern and Contemporary Japan--seen in relation to culture and history**Week 8 (03/18, 03/20, 03/22) Facing the West: Meiji**

NS "Chapter 8 Facing and Embracing the West: 1850s-1900s," pp. 209-243. [35 pages]
Mori Ogai. "Maihime (The Dancing Girl)," trans. Richard Bowring, Monumenta Nipponica 30. 2 (1975): pp. 151-166. [16 pages]

Week 9 (03/25, 03/27, 03/29) Modernity and Discontents: Taisho and Early Showa

NS "Chapter 9 Modernity and Its Discontents: 1900s-1930s," p.244-275. [32 pages]
Hayashi Fumiko, "Vagabond's Song," trans. Elizabeth Hanson, in To Live and To Write: Selections by Japanese Women Writers 1913-1938, ed. Yukiko Tanaka (Seattle: Seal Press, 1987), pp. 105-125. [21 pages]

Week 10 (04/01, 04/03, 04/05) Empire and War

NS "Chapter 10 Cultures of Empire and War: 1900s-1940s," pp.276-317. [42 pages].
Hayashi Kyōko, "Yellow Sand," trans. Kyoko Selden, in Japanese Women Writers: Twentieth Century Short Fiction, ed. Noriko Mizuta Lippit and Kyoko Iriye Selden (Armonk NY: M. E. Sharpe, 1991), pp. 207-216. [10 pages].

Week 11 (04/08, 04/10, 04/12) Postwar Reconstruction

NS "Chapter 11 Defeat and Reconstruction: 1945-1970s," pp.318-361. [44 pages]
Sakaguchi Ango, "On Decadence (Darakuron)" trans. James Dorsey, in Literary Mischief: Sakaguchi Ango, Culture, and the War (Lexington Books, 2010): [10 pages]

***** Essay #2 DUE: Friday, April 12 in sections.**

Week 12 (04/15, 04/17, 04/19) Cool Japan: Heisei

NS "Chapter 12 'Cool' Japan as Cultural Superpower: 1980s-2010s," pp.362-400. [39 pages]
Murakami Haruki, "Tony Takitani," trans. Jay Rubin, The New Yorker vol. 78 no. 8 (1990; April 15, 2002): pp. 74-81. [8 pages]

Week 13 (04/22, 04/24, 04/26) Japan Then and Now

Guest lectures.
Readings TBA.

Week 14 (04/29, 05/01) Future Japan

Final Lectures.

Readings TBA

Optional review sessions Friday 5/3.

***** FINAL EXAM: Date and Time TBA**

DRAFT: To be Edited