

Syllabus format 2025

Semester	2025Summer			
Course	Japanese Culture in the Modern Era			
Instructor	TBD			
Instructed only by foreign language				
Instruction Language	English			
Active Learning included				
Active Learning Type	Discussion, Debates		Group work	Presentation
	Flipped Class	Practicum/Fieldwork		Experience
	Investigation	Mock classes	PBL	Others
Course Description	This course will provide a general overview of Japanese society and culture in the postwar period. This course will introduce students to the historical background and modern social implications of contemporary Japanese culture. We will explore a wide range of artistic mediums including music, art, manga, animation, fashion, advertising, and film. Topics will include hikikomori (shut-ins that refuse to leave the home for work or school), chronic over-work including karoshi (death from overworking), declining population and the population bomb, and extreme population density in cities. In addition, the concepts of kaizen (continuous improvement), and wa (social harmony) will be introduced and analyzed. The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two-week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits and a Certificate of Completion for passing with a minimum grade of a D.			
Course Objectives	By the end of the session, students should be able to understand: 1) A basic understanding of contemporary challenges facing Japanese society 2) The major influences that have shaped postwar culture in Japan 3) How to view the positive attributes of modern Japanese society through an international perspective			
Course Schedule ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.				
	Date	Details		
1st	15-Jul	Introduction: Class Orientation and House Rules Nihonjinron, Japaneseness and Homogeneousness: Japan Phenomenon and the Politics of Identity Building		
2nd	16-Jul	Film viewing: Muhomatsu no issho (Rikshaw Man, Inagaki) 1958 Class Activity POSTWAR CULTURAL IDEOLOGIES: RECONCILING PRE WAR NATIONALISM WITH POSTWAR DEMOCRACY		
3rd	17-Jul	Class Tour: Tokyo Imperial PalaceYasukuni Shrine		
4th	18-Jul	HISTORY AND MEMORY IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN Class Activity and Discussion		
5th	21-Jul	Guest lecture		
6th	22-Jul	Film viewing: TBA		
7th	23-Jul	BODY, DRESS AND FASHION CULTURE IN JAPAN Class Activity and Discussion		
8th	24-Jul	FOOD, CONSUMPTION AND CONVENIENCE DEATH AND CARE IN JAPAN Class Activity and Discussion		
9th	25-Jul	ECOLOGY, NATURE, LANDSCAPES CULTURE CULMINATING ACTIVITY/GROUP PERFORMANCE		
Supplementary Activities ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.				
	Date	Details		

1st		
2nd		
3rd		
Textbook	The instructor will provide class materials.	
Supplementary Reading		
Homework	Daily homework will focus on study and fieldwork for development of the final presentation/project/test.	
Grading	90-100 = A 80-89 = B 79-70 = C 60-69 = D 50 and below = F Breakdown: •Class Participation: 25% •Attendance: 25% •Assignments: 20% •Final Project: 30%	