

Syllabus format 2025

Semester	2025Summer			
Course	Cross Cultural Perspectives on Teaching: Japan			
Instructor				
Instructed only by foreign languages				
Instruction Language	English			
Active Learning included				
Active Learning Type	Discussion, Debates		Group work	Presentation
	Flipped Classroom	Practicum/Fieldwork		Experience
	Investigation	Mock classes	PBL	Others
Course Description	<p>This course delves into the professional development of educators particularly in Japan, offering a comprehensive examination of teaching as a profession through a cross-cultural lens. Participants will explore the historical, cultural, and societal contexts that shape the Japanese education system and compare these with other global education models. Key topics include the evolution of teaching standards in Japan, the role of professional learning communities, teacher training and certification processes, and the impact of cultural values on pedagogical practices. Students will engage with case studies, research articles, and firsthand accounts from educators, in-session school visits, class observations, and reflections, as well as real teacher guest speakers providing a well-rounded understanding of the professional landscape in Japan. This course is ideal for current and future educators and education administrators, and anyone interested in understanding the complexities of teaching as a profession in Japan and beyond, as well as for those who want to teach ESOL/EFL, or teach in Japan, Asia or other locations abroad in the future. Through interactive discussions, school visits, guest speakers, and reflective exercises, participants will develop a nuanced perspective on professional development in education within a cross-cultural framework. The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours in the two-week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits with a minimum grade of a D.</p>			
Course Objectives	<p>By the end of this course, participants will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Analyze the Historical and Cultural Contexts: Understand the historical, cultural, and societal contexts that have shaped the Japanese education system and its evolution over time. 2) Compare Education Systems: Compare and contrast the Japanese education model with other global education systems to identify unique and shared characteristics. 3) Evaluate Teaching Standards: Examine the development and implementation of teaching standards in Japan, including the processes for teacher training and certification. 4) Explore Professional Learning Communities: Investigate the role and impact of professional learning communities in fostering teacher collaboration and professional growth in Japan. 5) Understand Cultural Influences: Analyze how cultural values and societal expectations influence pedagogical practices and the professional development of teachers in Japan. 6) Engage with Case Studies and Research: Critically review case studies, research articles, and firsthand accounts from educators to gain diverse perspectives on the professional landscape in Japan. 7) Participate in School Visits and Observations: Gain practical insights through in-session school visits, class observations, and interactions with real teachers to understand the day-to-day realities of teaching in Japan. 8) Reflect on Personal and Professional Growth: Reflect on personal and professional growth through interactive discussions, reflective exercises, and the sharing of experiences and insights with peers. 9) Prepare for International Teaching: Develop strategies and knowledge essential for teaching ESOL/EFL, or for pursuing teaching careers in Japan, Asia, or other international locations. 			
Course Schedule	※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.			
	Date	Details		
1st	3-Jun	Introduction and Historical Context: Course Introduction and Overview Introduction to the Japanese Education System: Historical Perspectives Lecture: Evolution of Education in Japan Group Discussion: Initial Comparisons with Other Global Education Systems		
2nd	4-Jun	Teaching Motivational Strategies in the Classroom & School Visit Guest Speaker: Games and other motivational strategies in the classroom School Visit: Observing real classes in session Reflection Session: Key Takeaways from the School Visit		
3rd	5-Jun	Cultural and Societal Influences: Cultural Values and Societal Expectations in Japanese Education Case Study: Impact of Culture on Classroom Dynamics Group Activity: Cross-Cultural Comparisons in Educational Practices Reflection Session: Personal Cultural Influences on Teaching		
4th	6-Jun	Teaching Standards and Certification Lecture: Teacher Training and Certification Processes in Japan Guest Speaker: Insights from a Certified Japanese Teacher Workshop: Comparing Teacher Certification Processes Globally		
5th	9-Jun	Pedagogical Practices Lecture: Pedagogical Practices in Japanese Classrooms Interactive Session: Comparing Pedagogical Approaches Globally Guest Speaker: Experiences of Teaching in Japan Group Activity: Designing a Lesson Plan Incorporating cross-cultural Pedagogical Practices		
6th	10-Jun	School Visits and Class Observations School Visit: Observing Teaching Practices and Classroom Management Debriefing Session: Observations and Reflections Class Observation: Real-time Analysis of Teaching Techniques Reflection Session: Insights Gained from Observations		

7th	11-Jun	Challenges and Opportunities in Japanese Education Lecture: Current Challenges in the Japanese Education System Group Discussion: Addressing Educational Challenges Globally Workshop: Innovative Solutions to Educational Challenges Interactive Session: Future Opportunities in Teaching
8th	12-Jun	Preparing for International Teaching Lecture: Teaching ESOL/EFL in Japan and Other Countries Case Study: Success Stories of International Educators Workshop: Developing Strategies for Teaching Abroad Interactive Discussion: Adapting to Different Educational Environments
9th	13-Jun	Student Presentations and Reflection Final Student Presentations Reflection Session: Personal and Professional Growth
Supplementary Activities ※Fill in according to the number of times the class is to be held.		
	Date	Details
1st		
2nd		
3rd		
Textbook	Course materials will be provided in class	
Supplementary Reading		
Homework	Daily homework will focus on study and fieldwork for development of the final presentation/project/test.	
Grading	100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59 and below = F Breakdown: ● Participation: 1/3% ● Attendance: 1/3% ● Final Exam & Presentation: 1/3%	
Contact with Instructor		
U R L		
Courses taught by faculty with practical experience		
Keywords		
Others		