



J. F. Oberlin University
Reconnaissance Japan
Content Courses Taught in English

Course Number	Course Title	Spring 2016	Fall 2016
JPF3381L	STJS (Doing Fieldwork in Japan (SL))	●	
JPF3341L	Intercultural Communication	●	
JPF3350L	Japan Seen in Real Time	*	
JPF3346L	Japanese Cinema	●	
JPF3361L	Japanese Classical Dance	●	
JPF3344L	Japanese Culture	●	
JPF3370L	Japanese Literature	●	
MGM3093B; MGM3094B	Japanese Small Enterprises (SL)	*	
JPF3371L	Japanese Women's Literature	●	
JPF2470L	Multilingual Interaction	●	
JPF3332L	Pre-modern Japanese History	●	
JPF3311L	Political Geography of East Asia	●	
JPF3313L	Sino-Japanese Relations	●	
TOR3002B	Tourism in Japan I	●	
JPF3387L	STJS (Multicultural Education) 2016 only	●	
JPF3376L	STJS (Asian Memoir)		●
JPF3340L	Comparative Culture		●
MGM3065B; MGM3066B	Global Communication: Cross-Cultural Marketing in Small Enterprises (SL)		*
JPF3330L	History of US-Japan Exchanges		●
JPF3342L	Introduction to Japanese Folklore		●
JPF3360L	Japanese Art		●
JPF3343L	Japanese Cultural Exchanges		●
MGM3010L TOR3028L	Japanese Management I and II		●
JPF3310L	Japanese Politics		●
JPF3351L	Japanese Society (SL)		●
JPF3363L	STJS(Japanese Theatre)		*
JPF3331L	Modern Japanese History		●
JPF3320L	The Japanese Economy		●
JPF3348L	STJS(Religions in Japan)		●
TOR3003B	Tourism in Japan II		●
JPF3354L	STJS(Women in Japan)		●
JPF3355L	STJS (Sociology of Children in Japan)		●

- The Japanese school year starts in April. First semester is spring semester. Course descriptions for Spring 2017 should be similar to Spring 2016, JFOU reserves the right to cancel or replace classes due to faculty sabbaticals. Academic Affairs also does not assign course numbers for new courses until November. Any new classes for Spring 2017 will be 3000 level courses.

Spring 2016 Course Descriptions

STJS (Doing Fieldwork in Japan (SL)) (Spring): 4 credits

This course is an interactive, hands-on course that allows students to investigate the local community and to learn how to work with various people in an academic setting. Students in this course should be willing to communicate with people from different social, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Japanese students and international students are teamed to collaborate on fieldwork projects. There will be field trips and lectures, through which students will obtain information and knowledge about the local community, history, culture and environment; through fieldwork projects, students will have an opportunity to explore a subject of their own interest and 'experience' Japanese society and culture on their own.

Intercultural Communication (Spring): 4 credits

In this global era, we face the ever-increasing transnational flows of people, products, ideas, and practices. Living across/between multiple cultures is becoming the norm for many. It is imperative, therefore, that we recognize our own cultural complexity as well as the needs to function effectively in culturally diverse contexts. This course focuses on the role of culture in our everyday lives while cultivating intercultural awareness and communication skills.

Japan Seen in Real Time (Spring): 4 credits (cancelled in 2016)

The objectives of this course are to assist students in understanding what is happening in Japan and what makes her tick. The class will cover all areas of Japan including but not limited to politics, business, social matters, show biz, sports, etc. Through this class, students from abroad acquire basic knowledge about Japan. The course enhances process and contributes to the fulfillment of students' purposes in coming to study in Japan. While it is difficult, if not impossible, to establish a set of objectives for each student, as much as possible students will pursue their own individual areas of interest to satisfy their curiosity about contemporary Japan,

Japanese Cinema (Spring): 4 credits

Cinema offers dynamic ways to learn about a particular country's history, society and culture. By watching crucial films by influential Japanese filmmakers, this course will provide students a unique way of experiencing Japan. Through exploring artistic, cultural, and political implications in these films, students will learn how Japanese filmmakers explore themes and cultural landscapes pertinent to modern Japanese history. Students will learn to read visual images in context of larger issues of social, cultural or historical significance.

Japanese Classical Dance (Spring): 4 credits

In this class, Japanese traditional culture is studied through Kabuki dance and Shamisen music. Kabuki is one of the representative traditional theater forms and Shamisen is a representative classical musical instrument of Japan. The course consists of not just lectures but also actual participation in and practice wearing Kimono, playing Shamisen, and dancing Kabuki.

Japanese Culture (Spring): 4 credits

What is culture? What is Japanese culture? Is there anything uniquely Japanese? How can one study, analyze, and understand Japanese culture and her people? This course aims first to enable students to learn the basic perspectives and methodologies of Culture Studies, and then to apply them to the understanding of contemporary Japanese cultural scenes. How do foreigners as well as the Japanese themselves view Japanese people and culture? How valid is so-called Nihonjinron literature? What kinds of subcultures coexist in Japan, and how are the Japanese values and beliefs manifested in them? How are traditional cultures maintained and appreciated in contemporary Japan and how are they changing? The course aims to investigate these questions and more, and explore various dimensions of Japanese culture, as Japan, like any culture in the world, is not completely monolithic or homogeneous. Students' willingness to participate in discussions and to conduct their own research is essential.

Japanese Literature (Spring): 4 credits

This is an intensive reading and discussion course based on Japanese critic, Kato Shuichi's work on the history of Japanese literature. Shuichi Kato (1919-2008) was one of Japan's post-war leading international intellectuals. This course is an introduction to the major works of Japan's pre-modern literature. It covers the history of Japanese

literature from earliest times to 1868. Besides Kato's work, students read translated texts of original Japanese classics in various genres and styles drawn from poetry, theater and fiction over different time periods. Students analyze these works in relation to the social and cultural history of Japan. This course also frames development of Japanese aesthetics. The class material will be provided through OBIRIN e-Learning (Moodle). Students need to download reading materials and to submit essays thorough the course.

Japanese Small Enterprises (SL) (Spring): 4 credits (cancelled in 2016)

This courses focuses on small business enterprises and non-profits in Japan. It looks at the influence of 'big box' stores on local enterprises, the marketing necessary for local enterprises to survive, the philosophy of for-profit and not-for-profit enterprise in Japan, and the sociological/cultural aspects of small business in Japan. The course will analyze traditional small enterprise and attempts at contemporary start-ups. It will include case studies about strategic, marketing, and financial issues. Lectures and visits from small business owners will enhance students' understanding about the challenges facing small business owners.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes: It is expected that the students at the end of the course would have learned the following:

1. The historical importance of the 'merchant' in Japanese society
2. The incursion of big box stores and their impact on Japanese enterprises
3. The marketing and financial issues related to small mom and pop stores
4. The changing family structure and its impact on small mom and pop stores
5. The differences between small for profits and non-profits in Japan
6. The differences between small enterprises in Japan and in the US
7. The ability to create project teams to analyze the current situation and provide a business plan for survival.

The service learning involves project design, discussions, reflection essays, and presentations. This class will be limited to a maximum of 20 students, with an equal number of English-speaking and Japanese students.

Japanese Women's Literature (Spring): 4 credits

Japan has produced numerous outstanding women writers in history, from Heian to the present. This course will give students an opportunity to appreciate the special beauty Japanese women's literature offers, and learn about Japan from a gendered perspective. The readings will include different genres from different time frames. The course will give a clear idea of the contributions of Japanese women writers and their responses to the culture and society in which they live. Each of the readings will be discussed in context of the larger social, cultural and historical significance.

Multilingual Interaction (Spring): 2 credits

This course is intended for students of various linguistic and cultural backgrounds (i.e., native and nonnative speakers of Japanese). There is no requirement regarding proficiency level in the Japanese language. Through a variety of activities, students learn roles played by both linguistic and non-linguistic elements of communication and how to communicate in situations where ordinary interactive resources are limited or unavailable. Students teach their native languages (or other languages) to nonnative speaking participants of the class. Through a variety of activities, they are expected to expand perspectives and develop communicative competence needed in the multicultural society we all live in.

Pre-modern Japanese History (Spring): 4 credits

This course provides an introduction of premodern Japanese history, and devotes attention to various themes relevant for an understanding of social, political, religious and cultural phenomena. The course will follow a chronological approach, focusing on topics which are critical for the understanding of premodern Japan. Teaching is by means of interactive lectures, supposed by seminar-like discussions. Students are required to deliver presentations twice regarding the topic of the day. Needless to say, students are encouraged to participate actively, express their thoughts and critically evaluate the sources they study. At the end of the course, students should have acquired basic and advanced knowledge of premodern Japanese history.

Political Geography of East Asia (Spring): 4 credits

The East Asian region has been one of the most dynamic areas of economic and political development in the world. This course is designed to give students a general survey and understanding of the main features of a range of contemporary geographical issues affecting the East Asian region, both within and between the countries in this

area. Its primary goals are to encourage students to link and apply a range of political, geographical, and theoretical positions to a series of regional case studies. The class surveys the interrelationships operating in the regional and national geopolitical issues of China, the Republic of Korea, and Japan. Less extensive attention is given to the roles of Taiwan, North Korea, and Southeast Asia. After laying a foundation of essential geographical, historical, and social elements, the class addresses political geography issues within the region and trans-regional problems. Students should leave this course with a solid grounding in political geography factors operating within the East Asian region, and should be able to form critical arguments regarding geopolitical issues and their interrelationships.

Sino-Japanese Relations (Spring): 4 credits

Sino-Japanese relations have radically changed during modern times and are now at their worst since diplomatic normalization in 1972. This class provides a detailed introduction to the various issues influencing Sino-Japanese relations, including, but not limited to, differing historical perceptions, the textbook controversy, visits by Japanese politicians to Yasukuni Shrine, questions related to war reparations, Japanese ODA to China, and Taiwanese independence. While the course will focus on current issues, historical background going back to the 19th century will be discussed as necessary. Since recent exploration of Sino-Japanese territorial issue in the East China Sea, discussion has escalated from not only sovereignty of the Diaoyu/Senkaku Islands, but also to the question of possession of the Ryukyu Islands after WWII. Therefore, by analyzing both pro-China and pro-Japan irredentist arguments based on historical evidence and international law, the class will primarily discuss border issues between China and Japan in the East China Sea.

Tourism in Japan I (Spring): 2 credits

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of tourism and provides an overview of tourism in Japan. Topics include the modern definition of tourism, benefits of tourism development, community development by tourism, and tourism policies. Many Japanese tourist destinations will be used to illustrate the present condition of international and domestic tourism in Japan. Topics also include the objectives and issues of the new Integrated Resort Development Plan advocated by the Japanese Government. Students who cannot take Tourism II are welcome.

STJS (Multicultural Education) (Spring 2016 only): 4 credits

By prof. Anne Reilley Freese (University of Hawaii, Manoa)

This course is designed to critically and actively engage students in a contextually based learning experience that focuses on the concepts of multicultural identity, culturally relevant teaching and increase one's cross cultural understandings. The study abroad experience provides a unique opportunity for rich experiential learning through the students' immersion in the host culture of Japan. It provides the students with an opportunity to draw on their personal experiences and compare and contrast them with their immersion experiences in another culture. In this course we will examine our assumptions and prior knowledge about multicultural education and reflect on how our prior knowledge and experiences shape our beliefs and identity. Through our immersion and first hand experiences we will explore and inquire into how culture and different cultural contexts influence one's beliefs and behavior.

The conceptual framework for this class is informed by Banks' (2007) notion of cross-cultural understanding as a process of knowledge construction. Banks' framework helps students expand their cross-cultural understanding based on four levels of cultural knowledge: (1) personal knowledge, awareness of one's own cultural beliefs and practices; (2) popular knowledge, awareness of the dominant culture; (3) school knowledge, awareness of institutional decisions such as choice of curriculum, textbooks; and (4) transformative knowledge, cross-cultural awareness and culturally responsive interaction. The course focuses on these four level of cultural knowledge to enhance the students' experiential learning and cross-cultural awareness.

The goal is to "understand, investigate, and determine how the implicit cultural assumptions, frames of reference, perspectives, and biases" (p. 10) of their own cultural knowledge shape education and teaching. This implies that the students first engage in the process of their own cultural knowing and then move toward cross-cultural knowing through coursework and multiple field experiences in diverse settings. This will be done through experiences within and across different contexts such as the classroom setting, community settings and school sites in Tokyo.

Fall 2016 Course Descriptions

STJS(Asian Memoir) (Fall): 4 credits

Japan shares similar experiences with many of its Asian neighbors. Asia's encounter with modernity is filled with political drama and tumultuous events affecting social, economical and cultural formations at all levels. Personal narratives offer dynamic accounts of what it is like to live through times such as the Meiji Restoration in Japan, the Cultural Revolution in mainland China, war and division in Korea, the confluence of Confucianism, colonialism and communism in Vietnam, the brutal Khmer Rouge, and pre-'liberation' Tibet. This course will use personal narratives to help students make sense of the modern Asian experience, and search for geopolitical, historical and social meanings in individual voices that demand empathetic and critical responses.

Comparative Culture (Fall): 4 credits

This course is designed to provide students with a general understanding of society, culture, and ethnic diversity in contemporary Japan by way of contrast with the United States. The course begins with an overview of the natural environment, geography, history, and other general aspects of Japan. Then the course examines cultural and ethnic diversity in Japan and the United States, including issues such as language, minority rights, and immigration policies. Students also learn about contemporary issues shared by both countries. By taking a comparative approach, this course helps students achieve a better understanding of contemporary Japan in order to facilitate better communication with people of different backgrounds.

Global Communication: Cross-Cultural Marketing in Small Enterprises (SL) (Fall): 4 credits

This course studies the cross-cultural theories of cultural anthropology emphasizing the links between values and behavior, the challenges of stereotyping and ethnocentrism, cultural distinctions, individualism vs collectivism, universalism vs particularism, high and low context cultures. It then applies these theories to differences between the ways small businesses operate in the United States and Japan. The service component of the course concentrates on the shopping arcade at Fuchinobe, assisting the small business owners provide culturally appropriate marketing strategies for both the local Japanese and the growing international population. Although the class is not a lottery class, class numbers will be limited with approximately the same number of English-speaking Japanese students and English-speaking international students.

History of U.S.-Japan Exchanges (Fall): 4 credits

The U.S.-Japan relationship is one of the most solid and strongest bilateral relationships in the world. But it has not been without major conflicts, problems, and misunderstandings. The course examines the multiple dimensions of this tie from historical, military, political, economic, and cross-cultural perspectives as well as exchanges on the individual level. The present situation and the future directions of the two countries are explored.

Introduction to Japanese Folklore (Fall): 4 credits

This once-a-week, back-to-back course is designed to explore and understand Japanese folklore. Folk traditions are so well-known to the Japanese that people do not talk about them. Hence, students of Japanese language and culture cannot easily understand them. Through lectures, DVDs, fieldwork, and other hands-on experiences, students are able to know Japanese folklore thereby deepening students' knowledge of Japanese language and culture.

Japanese Art (Fall): 4 credits

A survey of Japanese art history. The objective of the course is to have students acquire knowledge of the trends, major works, special characteristics of Japanese art, foreign influences, and the effect of religious, historical, and social aspects on art. The course covers the early Neolithic (Jomon) to the Edo period. The emphasis is on sculpture and painting, but applied arts such as ceramics and lacquer ware are shown where necessary. Mostly pottery is shown for the prehistorical periods, Buddhist art for the Asuka to Early Heian periods, Buddhist art and secular painting for the Late Heian to Kamakura periods, and various types of paintings for the Muromachi period onward. Lectures in English are accompanied by slides.

Japanese Cultural Exchanges (Fall): 4 credits

Culture is nowadays considered an important tool not only for enriching society but also for building good relationships with foreign countries. This course examines Japanese international cultural policy, programs and

activities, at present and in the past. It also looks into various aspects of Japanese culture and society in connection with cultural contacts with the outside world. Students are encouraged to contribute to the class by providing comparative points of view.

Japanese Management I and II (Fall): 4 credits

These two courses (each offered for two credits) should be taken together as the equivalent of a four-credit course in Japanese Management. The courses focus on management issues, especially in the areas of human resources management and business enterprise management. They use a comparative and international point of view. Students are asked to make presentations and participate actively in discussions. Guest speakers from major Japanese companies are invited.

Japanese Politics (Fall): 4 credits

Japan is one of the most important countries in the world. The third largest economic power and most established democracy in the Asian region, Japan is an important ally of the United States. Yet, its political system and its decision-making process are among the most poorly understood in the world. To many outside observers, the lengthy proceedings of the Diet, the sequence of ever-changing Prime Ministers, and odd policy outputs are just too mysterious to be explained in simple terms. This course is designed to give students a general understanding of the main features of contemporary Japanese politics. In reaching this goal, the class begins by briefly reviewing Japanese history prior to the Second World War emphasizing Japanese political culture and its development. Only by understanding Japan's past, can students truly understand and appreciate Japan's current political culture. Special attention is paid to the demise of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the period of national planning and constitution-making of the Meiji period. In examining these eras, attention is paid to traditional cultural practices and how Japan's political leaders sought to accommodate them while economically, militarily, and politically "modernizing." In the post WWII era, Japan's historical path offers a string of deep puzzles. How could a country so thoroughly destroyed by the United States in the Second World War form with its former enemy the most enduring alliance of the modern world? How could the country engineer the most amazing economic miracle for three decades and suddenly be unable to reform itself in the face of a decades-long crisis? How could Japanese voters keep the same ruling party (i.e., LDP) in power even in the face of 15 years of deep crisis? How could a country known for the passivity of its civil society suddenly witness the blooming of NGOs in the fields of environmental and women's rights?

Japanese Society (Fall) (SL): 4 credits

Why is Japan studied? What kind of experiences do scholars have when studying Japanese society/culture/people? What are the implications of the act of 'studying Japan'—and of ethnographic research in general? How have the products of Japan Studies influenced and shaped laypeople's perspectives on Japan? The class explores these questions by reading materials from various sources: e.g., anthropological textbooks for undergraduate students, newspaper articles, a 1950 guidebook for young American soldiers heading to Japan as members of the Occupation Forces, and contemporary essays by social scientists. Through these texts, the class examines the relationship between people's lived experience and academic research. The class also reviews the recent changes and developments in Japanese society, including the repercussions of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami disaster.

STJS(Japanese Theatre)(Fall) 4 credits (not offered in 2016)

The course introduces students to Japanese theatrical culture and drama works from ancient times to today. It explores a variety of traditional theater forms including bugaku, noh, kyogen, kabuki, and bunraku (puppet theater), and modern theater forms including shingeki, angura, and butoh, through performances, acting techniques and other elements. The class surveys the development of traditions and diversity of topics, acting styles, cultural and social background of each theater, through historical, literary, and theoretical readings. It also examines how Japanese theatre traditions have interacted with those in other Asian and Western countries. Students acquire a full understanding of the major trends in Japanese theater by discussing and writing responses to readings as well as doing a group presentation on contemporary theatrical issues. Lectures consist mainly of a discussion of stylistic evolutions; technical development; cultural, social, religious and historical influences, etc. Visual materials will be shown in classes to illustrate respective topics. Theater visits are planned.

Modern Japanese History (Fall): 4 credits

This course examines the development of Japan in the 19th, 20th, and early 21st centuries. After a short survey of Japanese society and the political system before 1800, the class explores the multidimensional transformation that produced the fascinatingly complex society of the current time. The class considers important aspects of political, economic, social, and cultural history; among other things the class assesses the impact of foreign rivalries and wars on the rise, fall, and rise again of modern Japan.

The Japanese Economy (Fall): 4 credits

This course focuses on the stylized features of the Japanese economy from a micro-economic perspective, i.e., at the level of the firm and industry. It relates the organizational structure of the Japanese economy to its shared growth (efficiency + equity) performance.

STJS(Religions in Japan) (Fall): 4 credits

This course introduces Shintoism, Buddhism, and Christianity as practiced in Japan. It emphasizes the ritual, philosophical, experiential, anthropological, cultural, and ethical aspects of the three major religious traditions and their interaction over time. Outside speakers including priests and monks will enhance students' learning experience. In addition, field trips to Japanese places of worship where students are introduced to ritual and meditation are envisioned. The class will include lectures, discussions, and papers that emphasize the comparative aspects of faith and the religious experience.

Tourism in Japan II (Fall): 2 credits

This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of tourism and provides an overview of tourism in Japan. Topics include the modern definition of tourism, benefits of tourism development, community development by tourism, and tourism policies. Many Japanese tourist destinations will be used to illustrate the present condition of international and domestic tourism in Japan. Topics also include the objectives and issues of the new Integrated Resort Development Plan advocated by the Japanese Government. Students who have not taken Tourism I are welcome as the topic covered differ.

STJS(Women in Japan)(Fall): 4 credits

Do you want to learn about and better understand people who constitute half of the population in Japan? Yes, they are Japanese women. To look at Japan from the women's standpoint gives you deeper understandings of Japanese history, family, marriage, and human relationships.

Japanese women are found to be one of the major topics of interest among the observers and scholars of Japan around the world. Do you know that ancient Japan was probably one of the most gender equal societies in the world? But today, the status of Japanese women, especially in the occupational world, is considerably behind compared with other developed countries and some Asian countries. What happened to Japanese women and is happening to them now? And how are Japanese women portrayed in both domestic and overseas media? This course will examine the changing positions of women in Japanese society from ancient times to the present, and analyze the social and cultural factors influencing the life of today's Japanese women, as well as critical issues and challenges they are facing in the 21st century Japan (e.g. the declining birthrate). Furthermore, movies which describe Japanese women in different ways will be shown for discussion (and enjoyment, of course.).

STJS (Sociology of Children in Japan) (Fall): 4 credits

This class is to learn about sociology of children in Japan. This course is on learning about children's society of Japan. Traditional child-rearing in Japan and quickly shifting to modern parenting and children's living environment too much to change. Changes in environment and culture are giving effect to the child or from a historical perspective, explore the problems of children society of modern Japan.