**FOL4102-404 USF Japan Study Program: Culture, History and Society**

**Japan Trip: 5/15- 6/4 (Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Beppu, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara and Tokyo)**

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**Course Description:**

This three-week intensive academic course is designed to facilitate a successful knowledge base of Japan. Overall concepts investigated include Japanese culture, history, and society. This course seeks to nurture students’ multicultural awareness which needed to successfully navigate in today’s society.

Even though the main focus of the course is the three-week learning trip to Japan, during the pre-departure phase, the students will be assigned a series of reading materials designed to impart the basic knowledge of Japanese culture and history to students and provides a foundation for the three-week learning experience to Japan. In the post-trip phase, students prepare essays that highlight their Japan experience. During the fall semester 2017, the students will be requested to present their experiences in Japan at a USF J-Club meeting.

**Course Objectives:**

This course aims to give students the overall understanding of Japan and its culture through first hand experiences in Japan. Students will develop understanding of Japanese society and culture through reading and field trips. Through the course, students will be able to learn about another country, compare and contrast cultural differences with one’s own, and then broaden their perspectives.

In this course, students will:

1. Read and learn about the basic information of culture, history, society of Japan.

* Weekly reading assignments
* Discussions on Facebook or other online interface

1. Obtain a firsthand personal experience in Japan

* Participate in cultural learning trip to Japan
* Participate in a various activities and lectures in Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Beppu, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka, Nara, Yokohama and Tokyo

1. Analyze their learning experiences and discuss cultural differences for further understanding.

* Keep a blog or journal that documents opinions and views of daily observation – Jot down every day where you went and what you did, things you found new or strange or funny, and people you met. Illustrate or supplement your observation with photos and other materials which interested you, such as train tickets or other tickets to the temple or theaters or other performances.
* Take pictures or record videos at various sites - students are encouraged to enter the 2016 #usfworld Selfie’s Abroad Instagram Contest (http://www.usf.edu/world/participate/instagramcontest.aspx) and the 2017 International Photo Competition (http://www.usf.edu/world/participate/international-photo-competition.aspx).

1. Identify and demonstrate knowledge attained about the different elements of Japanese culture, history and society.

* Write an individual essay based on their learning trip.
* Develop a personal presentation which highlights the most influentially learned elements, which includes the comparison and contrast with the overall culture of America and with their own.

Students should pay attention to the following topics (but not limited to them) in their observations in Japan:

1. People in general: What they do, how they look, how you met them, and what makes the person interesting to you.
2. Food they eat every day
3. Community
4. Culture
5. Religious Practice
6. Urban Planning/Neighborhood: Explore the neighborhood in each city and draw a cultural/geographical map. Observe how cities are laid out and developed in terms of the railway station, shopping centers, streets and housings.

**Course Agenda:  
Pre-Departure Phase (Online and at pre-departure meetings)**

During this phase, students are introduced to the basic Japanese language components, the traditional and modern cultural elements, religions, historical events and figures, and the modern leading technologies in Japan. This phase offers a reflection on Japanese society. By the end of the pre-departure phase, students will be able to identify the significant cultural and historical components that have marked Japanese history.

The topics we cover in the pre-departure phase are highly related to the sites we visit in Japan, so that students can reinforce their comprehension/understanding of the country by actually visiting the sites.

The topics covered in the pre-departure course are:

* Japanese language - basic explanation of the language structure, Japanese alphabets, writing system, survival phrases, numbers
* Japanese geography and industry - basic geographic information of Japan, including population and industrial information
* Japanese food
* Modern Japan - technology, architecture, pop culture
* Religions in Japan - Buddhism - temples, Shintoism - shrines
* Traditional Japan - ancient capital Kyoto, Zen Buddhism, Zen Gardens, Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement, Geisha, Bushido
* History of Japan (modern times) - brief explanation of World War II - today, focus on the situations in Japan during WWII, atomic bombs

In this phase, we will read chapters and articles from the following books (most of the articles are posted on Google Drive and Canvas):

Borup, J. (2008). Japanese Rinzai Zen Buddhism. Leiden: Brill (ebook at USF Library. usflc.030742539).

Davies, R., & Ikeno, O. (2011). The Japanese Mind: Understanding contemporary Japanese Culture. Boston:

Tuttle Publishing (ebook at USF Library -usflc.020535015).

Heine, S., & Wright, D. S. (2006). Zen Classics: Formative Texts in the History of Zen Buddhism. Oxford; New

York: Oxford University Press.

Hendry, Joy (2012). Understanding Japanese Society. Hoboken: Taylor and Francis (ebook at USF Library .

usflc.030770796).

Juniper, A. (2011). Wabi Sabi: The Japanese Art of Impermanence. New York: Tuttle Publishing (ebook at

USF Library -usflc.023650208)

In addition to the reading assignments and discussions, students are expected to submit their **expectation essay (at least 1000 words)** regarding what they want to gain from this trip, what they want to focus on observing and learning, etc. by **May 12, 2017**.

**Learning Trip to Japan**

The trip starts in Kyushu in the far western part of Japan and ends in Tokyo, the eastern Japan. Students will mainly stay in Kyushu and Kansai areas in the western part of Japan, experiencing more traditional culture of Japan.

During the last few days of the trip, students will stay in Tokyo experiencing the modern Japan, which is also the largest metropolitan area in the world.

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|  | **am** | **pm** | **Hotel** |
| Day 1  (5/15 Mon) | Depart from Tampa-Fukuoka | |  |
| Day 2  (5/16 Tue) |  | Arrive in Fukuoka  9:00 Meeting at the hotel lobby | **APA Hotel Hakata Eki Mae**  4-10-151Hakata-Ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, 812-0011  TEL: 092-414-2800 |
| Day 3  (5/17 Wed) | 8:00 Meet at the hotel lobby  9:20-10:30 Disaster Prevention Center  Go to Tenjin for lunch | Dazaifu | **APA Hotel Hakata Eki Mae**  4-10-151Hakata-Ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, 812-0011  TEL: 092-414-2800 |
| Day 4  (5/18 Thur)  Kyushu Pass Day 1 | 8:00 Meet at the hotel lobby  10:00 Sample Riki (8:50 bus #67 to Furuno) | (Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan)  3:00 Asahi Beer Factory Tour | **APA Hotel Hakata Eki Mae**  4-10-151Hakata-Ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, 812-0011  TEL: 092-414-2800 |
| Day 5  (5/19 Fri)  Kyushu Pass Day 2 | 6:10 Meet at the hotel lobby  Fukuoka (6:33am)-Nagasaki (8:35am) by Kamome 3  Peace Dome & Chinatown & Suwa Shrine & Glover Garden  Nagasaki (7:22pm) -Fukuoka (9:15pm) by Kamome 46 | | **APA Hotel Hakata Eki Mae**  4-10-151Hakata-Ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, 812-0011  TEL: 092-414-2800 |
| Day 6  (5/20 Sat)  Kyushu Pass Day 3 | 8:15 Hotel Check out - pack for two nights in Beppu  Fukuoka (9:02am)-Beppu (10:56am) by Sonic 9 | Takasaki Mountain –Monkey Park  Beppu/Suginoi | **Suginoi Hotel**  1 Kankaiji, Beppu-City, Oita, 874-0822  TEL: 0977-24-1141 |
| Day 7  (5/21 Sun)  Kyushu Pass Day 4 | Beppu Hells | **Suginoi Hotel**  1 Kankaiji, Beppu-City, Oita, 874-0822  TEL: 0977-24-1141 |  |
| Day 8  (5/22 Mon)  Kyushu Pass Day 5 | 8:30 Hotel Check-out  9:24 JR to Oita to Yufuin at 11:13  Yufuin (3:50pm) –Hakata (6:07pm) by Yufu no Mori 4 | | **APA Hotel Hakata Eki Mae**  4-10-151Hakata-Ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, 812-0011  TEL: 092-414-2800 |
| Day 9  (5/23 Tue)  JR Pass START Day 1 | 7:10 Hotel Check-out  Fukuoka (7:58am)-Hiroshima (9:44am) by Kodama 734 | Peace Memorial Museum | **APA Hotel JR Hiroshima Station**  10-11 Matsubara-Cho, Hiroshima-City, Hiroshima, 732-0822  TEL: 082-264-9111 |
| Day 10  (5/24 Wed)  JR Day 2 | Miyajima | Free | **APA Hotel JR Hiroshima Station** |
| Day 11  (5/25 Thu)  JR Day 3 | 7:20 Hotel Check-out  Hiroshima (8:06am)-ShinOsaka (9:42am) by Sakura 540  ShinOsaka (10:16am)-Kyoto (10:31am) by Hikari 516 | Kanji Museum  Eikando  Samurai Kenbu Experience 17:00 (120 mins.) | **APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae**  806 Minami Fudocho, Shiokoji-sagaru, Nishinotoin dori, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, 600-8234  TEL: 075-365-4111 |
| Day 12  (5/26 Fri)  JR Day 4 | 9:20-1:00Kyoto Sangyo University School Visit (8:10 Subway, 8:45 Bus) | Kinkaku-ji / Tenryu-ji | **APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae** |
| Day 13  (5/27 Sat)  JR Day 5 | 6:00 Nishi-Honganji Morning Service  9:00 Hotel Check-out – pack for a night at the temple separately  Sanjusangendo / Kiyomizu Temple | 3:00 Check-in @ Daishin-in temple  Curfew:9:00pm  Light-Out:10:00pm  Evening - Arashiyama | **Daishinin**  57 Myoshinji-Cho, Hanazono, Ukyo-Ku, Kyoto 616-8035  TEL: 075-461-5714 |
| Day 14  (5/28 Sun)  JR Day 6 | 7:30 Breakfast  10:00 Temple Checkout  11:00 Zen Meditation @Taizo-in |  | **APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae** |
| Day 15  (5/29 Mon)  JR Day 7 | Fushimi Inari Shrine – Mountain Climbing | Visit Uji area  7:00 Kakiyasu Sanjaku Sanzunbashi (dinner) – JR Kyoto Isentan 10F | **APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae** |
| Day 16  (5/30 Tue)  JR Day 8 | Visit Osaka – Osaka-jo Castle, Namba area |  | **APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae** |
| Day 17  (5/31 Wed)  JR Day 9 | Visit Nara – Todaiji, Nara Park |  | **APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae** |
| Day 18  (6/1 Thu)  JR Day 10 | 7:45 Hotel Check-out  Kyoto (8:33am)-Tokyo (11:10am) by Hikari 512 | Skytree / Asakusa / Akihabara | **APA Hotel Tokyo Shiomi Eki Mae**  2-8-6 Shiomi, Koto-ku, Tokyo, 135-0052  TEL: 03-5653-8111 |
| Day 19  (6/2 Fri)  JR Day 11 | 8:00 Meet at the hotel  9:45-12:30 Cup Noodles Museum  10:15-Making Chicken Ramen | 12:45 Lunch at “Bayside” in Sakuragi-cho Washington Hotel 5F | **APA Hotel Tokyo Shiomi Eki Mae** |
| Day 20  (6/3 Sat)  JR Day 12 | Harajuku | Free | **APA Hotel Tokyo Shiomi Eki Mae** |
| Day 21  (6/4 Sun)  JR Day 13 | Program dismissed at Check-out (10am) |  |  |

In Fukuoka, students will stay at APA Hotel near JR Hakata Station. They will visit the Disaster Prevention Center, Hakata Folk Museum, Asahi Beer Brewery Factory, Dazaifu Shrine for successful academics. They will also experience making a plastic food sample, which is one of the leading technologies that Japan can offer in the world.

Students will have a day excursion to Nagasaki, where they will visit the Peace Park and Glover Garden. They will enjoy the unique geography of Nagasaki for a day. They will come back to Fukuoka at night.

On the following day, they will check out the hotel and move to Beppu, which is the most famous hot springs town in Japan. They will stay at Suginoi Hotel for 2 nights. In Beppu, they will visit Beppu Hells (original hot springs) and Takasaki Monkey Mountain. On the way back from Beppu to Fukuoka, they will visit Yufuin and enjoy the countryside scenery.

Leaving Fukuoka, they will move to Hiroshima by taking the world famous bullet train. In Hiroshima, they will visit Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum where they will learn about the atomic bomb as well as Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima, one of the most beautiful UNESCO World Heritage sites in Japan.

Then, students will move to Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. They will stay in APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae for six nights and the Daishinin Zen temple for a night and explore Buddhism ways of life, participating in the morning service and enjoying Zen breakfast. At Taizoin temple, the Vice Abbot will give them lectures on Zen Buddhism and Zen Gardens and a tour on the temple; they will also experience Zen meditation in Kyoto. Students will also visit other temples in Kyoto and explore the historical sites and the traditional culture of Japan.

In addition, Students will visit 1300-year-old Fushimi Inari Shrine, where they can learn more about the history of Japanese indigenous religion, Shintoism. They will also visit Osaka and Nara for day excursions. Furthermore, Students will visit Kyoto Sangyo University in one morning and experience Japanese college life.

As the final destination of the trip, they will take a bullet train to Tokyo, the nation’s capital and the world largest metropolitan area with the amazing public transportation system. In Tokyo, they will experience modern pop culture of Japan, by visiting famous districts such as Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Harajuku. Students will visit the Tokyo Prefectural Office, view the metropolitan area from the top floor of the building and observe how the metropolitan area has been developed. They will also explore Tokyo Skytree, the tallest tower in the world.

As a day excursion, they will pay a visit to Yokohama, which carries the largest Chinatown in East Asia and the second largest port in Japan. They also tour Cup Noodles Museum and learn the history of instant ramen noodles as well as make their famous chicken ramen from scratch.

**Post-Trip Phase**

Upon their return to Tampa, students will start working on their **reflection essay (at least 1000 words)**. In this essay, they look back their trip and identify what were the most influential or eye-opening to them. In addition, they should consider how they can apply their cross-cultural experiences to their lives as an international individual. Based on their reflections, students will have classroom discussions of what they have learned through the course. In addition to the essay, students select their **5 photos of significance** from the trip, **with at least a two sentence caption** that explains why each photo was chosen and why it is of significance for the trip. Both the essay and the photos are to be submitted by **June 20, 2017**.

**Grading and Assignments:**

Grades are issued based on the total points earned for the Pre-departure preparation for the trip, the trip participation and the completion of the assignments. Grades will not be negotiated or curved. This means students should invest time in preparing for class and submitting their best effort on all assigned work.

Since this is a college-level course, students are expected to approach assignments with thoughtful consideration and to be thorough in their completion. They are expected to write using proper grammar, punctuation and sentence structure.

Below are the grading distributions which will be used for this course:

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|  | **Assignments** | **Point Value** |
| Pre-departure Phase | Reading | 10 |
| Expectation Essay | 10 |
| Learning Trip | Trip Participation | 60 |
| Post-trip Phase | Reflection Essay | 10 |
| Significant Photos with a Caption | 10 |

**Course Policies:**

* **Attendance/Participation**: In order for this class to function properly, attendance and active participation is expected from all students. Showing up to class but not contributing to discussions or activities may result in a loss of participation points. Likewise, arriving late or leaving early may cost you participation points for that day.

Each absence from class/activities will result in a point deduction from your attendance grade. Extenuating circumstances, such as family emergency, extended illness, or observance of a religious holiday will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Students are expected to email the instructor in advance if they expect to miss class. Students are also responsible for determining what was covered in class and for completing any assignments that are due.   
Participation in the course trip to Japan is mandatory. Students cannot pass the course without traveling to Japan.

* **Late Assignments**: Students are expected to turn in all assignments on the due date. For each meeting that an assignment is late, their grade for that assignment will be reduced by 10 percent. If a student anticipates being out of class on a day that an assignment is due, plan to submit it prior to the absence in class or by e-mail.
* **Course Behavior**: Students are expected to arrive on time and prepared to participate in all course activities, as well as turn in any assignments that are due that day. Emails will be answered and graded assignments will be returned in a timely manner.  
  One purpose of this course is to create a safe environment where everyone is encouraged to share their opinions, emotions, and aspirations in class discussions. Please respect the classmates by maintaining confidentiality and not discussing this information outside of the course. Any student exhibiting rude or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave the group and will lose participation points for that day.  
  Participation points will be deducted at the instructor’s discretion for any inappropriate behavior. This includes, but is not limited to: disrespectful behavior toward the instructor and/or classmates, arriving late to activities or leaving early, texting, playing games, doing work for another class, excessive talking, sleeping, or other disruption (such as a ringing cell phone or laptop). For more information concerning appropriate student behavior, please refer to the Student Code of Conduct.
* **Student/Instructor Communication**: Your USF e-mail address is considered the official means of communication among students and instructor. Personal e-mail accounts, such as Gmail or Hotmail, should not be used. In addition, this course will involve frequent use of Canvas. You are expected to log in to your Canvas and USF e-mail account daily to check for new announcements. If you do not have Internet access at home, you may utilize the library or computer labs on campus. You will be held responsible for any assignments or announcements that are posted on Canvas or sent to your student e-mail account. Canvas tutorials are available at http:/media.cte.usf.edu/
* **Emergency Closure**: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Canvas, Elluminate, Skype, and e-mail messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It’s the responsibility of the student to monitor Canvas for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, as well as e-mails and MoBull messages for important general information.
* **Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**: Students with disabilities are responsible for registering with Students with Disabilities Services in order to receive academic accommodations. SDS encourages students to notify instructors of accommodation needs at least 5 business days prior to needing the accommodation. A letter from SDS must accompany this request. Read Student Responsibilities and Faculty Responsibilities.
* **USF Policy on Religious Observances**: All students have a right to expect that the University will reasonably accommodate their religious observances, practices, and beliefs. Please notify your instructor in writing before the second class meeting if you intend to be absent from a class in accordance with this policy.
* **Academic Honesty**: You are expected to be familiar with the Academic Dishonesty and Disruption of Academic Process Policy found in the USF Undergraduate Catalog. Neither cheating nor plagiarism (defined as unattributed quotation of the exact words of a published text or another’s writing, or the unattributed borrowing of original ideas by paraphrase from a published text) will be tolerated.

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. Your instructor reserves the right to submit assignments to this detection system. Assignments are compared automatically with a database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized.

* **Incomplete Grades**: An incomplete (I) grade is temporarily given in rare instances when a student is passing, but due to unforeseeable circumstances he/she is unable to complete the course requirements before the end of the term. Please refer to the “I” grade Policy found in the USF Undergraduate Catalog for more information.

\* The instructor has the right to change or modify the course syllabus at any time. If changed or modified, you will be notified by the instructor.