

FOL4101-404 USF Japan Study Program: Culture, History and Society
Japan Trip: 5/11- 5/26 (Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Beppu, Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo)

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Course Description:

This two-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 two-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 two-week learning experience to Japan. In the post-trip phase, students prepare essays that highlight their Japan experience. During the fall semester 2015, 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 Canvas
2. 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 and Tokyo
3. 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 2015 #usfworld Selfie's Abroad Instagram Contest (<http://www.usf.edu/world/participate/instagramcontest.aspx>) and the 2015 International Photo Competition (<http://www.usf.edu/world/participate/international-photo-competition.aspx>).

4. 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 Fukuoka and draw a cultural/geographical map. Observe how the city is 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 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 7, 2015**.

Learning Trip to Japan

Students will mainly stay in Kyuushuu area in the western part of Japan, experiencing more rural culture of Japan.

During the last half of the trip, students will visit Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo, by taking the bullet trains toward the eastern Japan.

	am	pm	Hotel
Day 1 (5/11 Mon)	Depart from Tampa-Fukuoka		
Day 2 (5/12 Tue)		Arrive in Fukuoka	Comfort Hotel Fukuoka 2-1-1 Hakata-Ekimae, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka, 812-0011 TEL: 092 431-1211
Day 3 (5/13 Wed)	10:00-11:00 Asahi Beer Brewery Hakata (160yenx2-JR)	Hakata Machiya Furusato Kan (200yen) Sightseeing Activity (Kawabata Canal)	Comfort Hotel Fukuoka
Day 4 (5/14 Thur)	9:30-10:30 Disaster Prevention Center	Dazaifu Explore Hakata & Tenjin (Free Time)	Comfort Hotel Fukuoka
Day 5 (5/15 Fri)	Fukuoka (7:54am)-Nagasaki (9:49am) by Kamome 7 Peace Dome & Chinatown & Dejima Nagasaki (6:21pm) -Fukuoka (8:13pm) by Kamome 42		Comfort Hotel Fukuoka
Day 6 (5/16 Sat)	Fukuoka (9:57am)-Beppu (11:49am) by Sonic 13	Beppu/Suginoi Takasaki Mountain –Monkey Park	Suginoi Hotel 1 Kankaiji, Beppu-City, Oita, 874-0822 TEL: 0977-24-1141
Day 7 (5/17 Sun)	Beppu Hells	Explore Oita- Oita City, Yufuin (Free Time)	Suginoi Hotel
Day 8 (5/18 Mon)	Oita- School Visit(?) Beppu (4:53pm) -Fukuoka (6:47pm) by Sonic 48		Comfort Hotel Fukuoka
Day 9 (5/19 Tue) JR Pass	Fukuoka (7:59am)-Hiroshima (10:04am) by Kodama 734	Sightseeing - Peace Memorial Museum and Miyajima	APA Hotel JR Hiroshima Station 10-11 Matsubara-Cho,

START 1			Hiroshima-City, Hiroshima, 732-0822 TEL: 082-264-9111
Day 10 (5/20 Wed) JR 2	Hiroshima (9:53am)-ShinOsaka (11:24am) by Sakura 542, ShinOsaka (11:40am)-Kyoto (11:55am) by Hikari 455	Visit Kiyomizu-temple, Sanjusangendo, downtown Kyoto, Nishiki Market Kakiyasu Sanjaku Sanzunbashi (dinner)	APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae 806 Nishidoindori Shiokomichi Minamifudoumachi Kudaru, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, Kyoto 600-8234 TEL: 075-365-4111
Day 11 (5/21 Thur) JR 3	Nijo Castle Nishijin ori kaikan	Golden Pavilion Evening - Osaka	APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae
Day 12 (5/22 Fri) JR 4	Kyoto - Fushiminari	Check-in @ Daishin-in temple (3:00pm) Curfew:9:00pm Light-Out:10:00pm	APA Hotel Kyoto Eki Mae
Day 13 (5/23 Sat) JR 5	6:00am-7:30am: Morning service @ Daishinin 10:40-12:40 Zen meditation @ Shunkoin	2:00 Taizoin Garden Tour	Daishinin 57 Myoshinji-Cho, Hanazono, Ukyo-Ku, Kyoto 616-8035 TEL: 075-461-5714
Day 14 (5/24 Sun) JR 6	Kyoto (8:56am)-Tokyo (11:40am) by Hikari 460	Asakusa/Sensoji Temple, Skytree, Akihabara	APA Hotel Tokyo Shiomi Eki Mae 2-8-6 Shiomi, Koto-ku,Tokyo 135-0052 TEL: 03-5653-8111

Day 15 (5/25 Mon) JR 7	Yokohama (Cup Noodles Museum, Chinatown, etc)/ Harajuku/Shinjuku		APA Hotel Tokyo Shiomi Eki Mae
Day 16 (5/26 Tue)	Program Dismissed	Depart from Tokyo -Tampa	

In Fukuoka, students will stay at Nishitetsu Inn Fukuoka, located within a walking distance from the downtown area called Tenjin. They will visit the Disaster Prevention Center, Hakata Folk Museum, Asahi Beer Brewery Factory, Dazaifu Shrine for successful academics.

Students will have a day excursion to Nagasaki, where they will visit the Peace Park and Dejima where they can experience an old town in medieval era. 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.

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 two nights and the Shunkoin Zen temple for 2 night and explore Buddhism ways of life, eating the Zen cuisine, participating in the morning service, cleaning the temple with the monks, etc. 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 and tea ceremony at temple. Students will also visit other temples in Kyoto and explore the historical sites and the traditional culture of Japan.

Students will have a day excursion to Uji, where it is famous for Japanese green tea production and Byoodoin, which is listed as UNESCO World Heritage and is printed on the Japanese 10 yen coins. They will also visit 1300-year-old Fushimi Inari Shrine, where they can learn more about the history of Japanese indigenous religion, Shintoism. In one afternoon, they will visit Osaka; going to see the Osaka-Jo castle and Kita and Minami areas in downtown.

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.

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 19, 2015**.

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:

	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.