



UNSW Course Outline

ARTS2633 A Cultural Survey of Japan: From Gods to Gadgets - 2024

Published on the 20 May 2024

General Course Information

Course Code : ARTS2633

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Humanities and Languages

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course focuses on key themes in Japanese culture from the pre-modern to the modern

periods. It emphasises the relationship between cultural continuity and change and also highlights key areas of debate in Japanese studies. The course is structured thematically and chronologically, with topics including Japanese myths as well as scholarly debates over Japanese mythology; rejection of the “Chinese model” of governance and retention of feudal political structures; the mutual impact of folk and elite culture in religious syncretism; the role of key concepts such as impermanence/insufficiency and the “pity of things” in Japanese intellectual life; the impact of urbanisation, increasing literacy and social satire; the contested meaning of Shinto in relation to “national learning” scholarship of the 17th to 19th centuries and the rise of Japanese nationalism and imperialism; socio-cultural transformation through the implementation of modern education in the 19th century; and the consequences of war from the 19th through the 20th centuries. The course concludes with a critical examination of the malleability of culture as an idea and how this is reflected in scholarship on Japanese culture.

This course is taught in English and with readings in English

Relationship to Other Courses

This course provides a foundation for understanding key themes in the history of Japan from early to contemporary times. It therefore provides a solid grounding for students interested in East Asia and/or history in general and a broader context for other courses focusing on China, Japan, and Korea.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Analyse key elements of Japanese civilization and culture
CLO2 : Articulate key changes in Japanese social and cultural structures
CLO3 : Analyse the relationship between civilisation and the individual

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Analyse key elements of Japanese civilization and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Reading/Response Exercise• Critical bibliography• Tutorial responses
CLO2 : Articulate key changes in Japanese social and cultural structures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Reading/Response Exercise• Critical bibliography
CLO3 : Analyse the relationship between civilisation and the individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial responses• Critical bibliography

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Echo 360

Learning and Teaching in this course

Teachers teach and students learn. Students must be active participants in their own learning by doing the readings, attending/listening to the Lectures, and attending Tutorials. The specifics of this approach will be discussed at the start of the course.

Additional Course Information

Additional information will be posted on Moodle.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Critical Reading/Response Exercise Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	10%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 12/06/2024 11:00 PM Post Date: 22/06/2024 11:00 PM
Critical bibliography Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (3 days)	60%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 29/07/2024 11:00 PM Post Date: 15/08/2024 11:00 PM
Tutorial responses Assessment Format: Group	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 05/08/2024 11:00 PM

Assessment Details

Critical Reading/Response Exercise

Assessment Overview

Students prepare for 2 subsequent assessments (i.e., individual and group, as below) by responding to questions based on their readings.

Length: 200 words

Feedback via rubric and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse key elements of Japanese civilization and culture
- CLO2 : Articulate key changes in Japanese social and cultural structures

Detailed Assessment Description

Students respond to a question on the Readings posted by the Lecturer-in-Charge. This allows the Lecturer-in-Charge to gain a sense of what specific writing/critical reading skills to focus on in later stages of the course to help students for their two larger Assessments (i.e., Critical Bibliography and Group Tutorial Responses). This Assessment and overall approach is influenced by an experiment in two courses in Term 2, 2023, which students overwhelmingly found beneficial as based on student feedback.

AI is not allowed.

Assessment Length

200 words maximum

Submission notes

N/A

Assessment information

To be posted on Moodle.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Critical bibliography

Assessment Overview

Students will write a critical bibliography as their self-directed research project.

Length: approximately 1,500 words.

Feedback via rubric and individual written comments.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse key elements of Japanese civilization and culture
- CLO2 : Articulate key changes in Japanese social and cultural structures
- CLO3 : Analyse the relationship between civilisation and the individual

Detailed Assessment Description

See below.

Assessment Length

Total maximum: 1500 words, everything included.

Submission notes

See Moodle

Assessment information

(1) Additional details on the Assessment will be posted on Moodle.(2) In the early weeks of the course, I will integrate into the Lectures some discussions of the types of things students should think about when doing research (i.e., critical reading, critical thinking, structure,etc.). I started doing this 3 years ago, and it has made a big difference.

KEY GENERAL POINTS

The Research Project/Critical Bibliography will be between 1200 and 1500 words in total. 1500 words is the total maximum. That includes EVERYTHING (content, references/bibliography, etc.)

- The Research Project/Critical Bibliography must follow the directions posted on Moodle. The directions will help you to learn how to structure things coherently and to think analytically/critically. Those that do not follow the directions will be marked with a single comment, NFD (Not Follow Directions), and failed. This is not complex, but rather basic stuff along the lines of things that one needs to be able to do to get a job, for instance. In sum, follow the directions, and things will be OK. THE DIRECTIONS ARE THERE TO HELP YOU LEARN.
- Students are encouraged to start thinking of possible research topics as early as possible. The range of topics will be discussed in the early weeks of the term.
- If students have any questions, they must bring those questions to class, either Lecture or Tutorial. I will set aside time for that purpose. If you have a question, raise your hand. Based on concerns raised by students in 2022, I will not respond to last-minute questions by email or questions during flexibility week (week 6). In other words, start working early and get yourselves organized. You will do much better.
- Why a critical bibliography?: Every year, at least one student asks, "how is this different than an annotated bibliography?" Short answer: It is similar to an annotated bibliography, but it is not the same. That is why (1) I have called it a "critical bibliography" and (2) provide instructions on how to do it. Longer answer: there is no possible way to answer this question adequately because there are various subtle variations in annotated bibliographies. So don't waste your time, my time, and your classmates' time on fretting over this question; instead, follow the instructions. You will be much better off if you do. Again, as a guide: in 2022 I had several students comment on how helpful this assessment was in developing in their basic skills.
- Final Point: The use of AI is not permitted on this assessment or any other assessment in this course.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Tutorial responses

Assessment Overview

Students work in groups to respond to a set of Tutorial Questions posed by the lecturer-in-charge.

Length: Approximately 2,000 words.

Feedback via rubric and group mark.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Analyse key elements of Japanese civilization and culture
- CLO3 : Analyse the relationship between civilisation and the individual

Detailed Assessment Description

The Tutorial Groups will submit consolidated Tutorial Responses to weekly Tutorial Questions at the end of the Term, not on a week by week basis. This will be discussed in further detail in Week 1.

Assessment Length

Approximately 2,000 words.

Submission notes

See Moodle.

Assessment information

The Tutorial Groups will submit Tutorial Responses on the questions offered on a weekly basis by other teams in their Tutorial time-slots. This will be discussed in further detail in Week 1.

NOTE #1: For Group Assessment, there is no Special Consideration per se. If a student does not participate in Group Work, I will remove that student from the Group.

NOTE#2: AI is not allowed.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Detailed information for each assessment will be provided on the course Moodle page

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Overall mark of 50%.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	Part 1: Foundations Lecture 1: Myths of Ancestry
	Tutorial	Introductory Tutorial led by Teacher/Illustration
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Lecture 2: Early Historical Sources
	Tutorial	Student Led
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Part 2: State Formation Lecture 3: The Chinese Model NOTE: No Lecture this week due to King's Birthday. But you do have readings and I will integrate this Lecture material into another Lecture.
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Lecture 4: Collapse of the Chinese Model and Military Rule
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Part 3: Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868) Lecture 5: The Tokugawa Shogunate
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Lecture	No Lecture This Week
	Tutorial	No Tutorial This Week
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Lecture 6: Baba Bunkō (1718-1759): Satirist and Troublemaker
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Part 4: Entering a New World Lecture 7: Revolution and the Meiji Restoration, 1868
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	Lecture 8: War, Victory and Defeat: 1895-1945
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Lecture 9: Lingering Anxieties in Popular Culture
	Tutorial	Student-Led

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

General Schedule Information

Students are responsible for all material covered in Lectures and Tutorials as well as information posted on Moodle. Tutorials are not recorded and therefore if a student misses a tutorial, the student misses that information. For the purposes of assigning Tutorial Teams, attendance will be taken on a weekly basis. Students who miss Tutorials or who do not engage with their Tutorial Team/Group will be removed from the Team/Group and therefore lose 30% of the total mark.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

Reading List: A list of Readings will be posted on Moodle. All of the Readings are available through Leganto on the Moodle course page.

Recommended Resources

Cambridge History of Japan; available at UNSW Library

East Asia: A Cultural, Social, and Political History; available at UNSW Library

Additional Costs

N/A

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed, and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. Students are encouraged to complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Dr. Gregory Evon		MB233	N/A	To Be Confirmed	Yes	Yes
Tutor	Sally McLaren		N/A	N/A	TBC	No	No

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified

causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may

apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here.](#)

School Contact Information

School of Humanities & Languages

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, Room 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm