

Japan Today (Tentative Syllabus)

JAPN 3693

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This course aims to help students explore current socio-cultural-economic issues in present-day Japan and develop cultural awareness and sensitivity that will promote understanding of potential difficulties in intercultural communication.

Course Objectives:

- (1) To understand the intricate relationship between language and society/culture
- (2) To identify corporate cultural processes in Japan
- (3) To explore socio-cultural-economic-political differences and similarities between Japan and the U.S.
- (4) To develop an open-minded attitude towards cultural differences
- (5) To experience everyday Japanese life with a host family
- (6) To experience traditional Japanese culture such as calligraphy, tea ceremony, etc. and become more aware of the roles traditions play in contemporary Japanese society
- (7) To learn basic data collection techniques to conduct research using Japanese language
- (8) To improve presentation skills in Japanese

ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION	
ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language	JAPN 3693: Students will participate in informal discussion on select topics with Japanese students in Japanese. In addition, students who choose to conduct their survey by interviewing will demonstrate oral and aural proficiency by interviewing local people in Japanese for their survey.
ML Learning Outcome 2: Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their skills by making a 15-minute presentation on the survey result in Japanese
ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language	JAPN 3693: Students who choose to conduct their survey using questionnaires will demonstrate writing proficiency by creating a survey form in Japanese.
ML Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target Language	JAPN 3693: Students who choose to conduct their survey with questionnaires will demonstrate reading proficiency by compiling data from the responses to the questionnaires.
ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	
ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a <i>specific</i> target-language country or region	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their knowledge of an aspect of Japanese culture by compiling data from their observation and experience in Japan and writing a 5- to 6-page analytical paper in English.

ML Learning Outcome 6: Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s)	<i>JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their ability to analyze the issue from Japanese perspective for their analytical paper.</i>
ML Learning Outcome 7: Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context	<i>JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their reflection on cultural complexity and context by taking into consideration various factors which influence Japanese behavior under discussion.</i>

Teaching Materials:

There are no textbooks in this course. Instead, handouts and other materials will be distributed throughout the duration of the program.

The course consists of the following components:

Components	Content	Requirements	% in final grade
Group research In Japanese*	Research and presentation on cultural issues	Interview or questionnaire research and presentation in Japanese	50%
Tours & field trips	Beppu City Tour Nagasaki Trip Factory/Company/School Visits	Active participation, careful observation and analysis, 作文, and acting as a tour guide**	12%
Home-stay	Home-stay experience with a Japanese host family	Active participation, careful observation and analysis, and writing/sending a thank-you letter to your host family	10%
Cultural events	Tea ceremony & calligraphy classes	Active participation	6%
Student exchange	Intercultural communication with students at the Japanese host institutions	Active participation in both mandatory and voluntary student exchange events	7%
Short essay***	Examination of a particular aspect of Japanese culture based on your observation and experience	Careful observation and analysis on a particular aspect of Japanese culture, and writing a 5- to 6-page (double-spaced) 'focused' scholarly essay (written in English)	15%

* **Goup research:** You will be doing research in a group of 3 or 4 on a topic of your choice which reflects upon differences and/or similarities between Japan and American cultures. The students gather information from students at the host institution(s), the host family, and/or local people by means of questionnaires or interviews, analyze the data, and give a 15-minute presentation in Japanese in class. The presentation will be followed by a 5-minute Q/A session.

****Tour guide duty:** During the Nagasaki trip, you will become our tour guide for the designated place(s) and introduce/explain them and its/their historical and cultural significance to us. Your tour guide assignment for Nagasaki trip will be announced later. You should do your research, using the Internet and/or the library.

*****Short scholarly essay:** You will be **keeping a journal** every day during LBAT Japan and **writing a short (4-6 pages) but ‘well-focused’ scholarly essay** on an aspect of Japanese culture **in English. This topic must be different from that of your group research.** You should reflect on what you observed and experienced during the field trips, home-stay, cultural events (i.e. 書道・茶道) and interaction with Japanese people as well as in everyday life in Japan.

Note that this is **NOT** 感想文. You should **systematically analyze** what you observed and experienced and write a **academic essay similar to a term paper.** Your essay is **due 12:00 noon on Sun., July 8.**

Cheating, Copying Homework, & Plagiarism

Wherever the LBAT Japan program takes place, **you are still under the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. Cheating on any tests and exams will not be tolerated at all** and the Dean’s Office will be notified of the offender(s). As you know, the submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to work created by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations constitutes an act of plagiarism and will not be tolerated. In addition, **copying any part of your classmate’s homework assignment or letting others copy yours will be also regarded as a violation of the honor code.** If you are not familiar with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code, you should go to <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php> and familiarize yourself with it.

Final Grade

Once the final grade is issued, it is not possible to change it unless there are computational errors.