

< 科目名 Subject > Japanese Culture A

< 担当者 Instructors > Richard Hodson

< 授業の到達目標及びテーマ Class Theme >

The goals of this course are:

- To provide a general introduction to Japanese culture
- To discuss in detail the customary beliefs, social forms and material traits that influence everyday life in Japan

< 授業の概要 Summary >

'Culture' is a powerful concept that can both clarify and obscure. It can be used both as a tool to explain and connect the customary beliefs, social forms and material traits of a society, and as a blanket theory that simplifies, reduces or exaggerates those phenomena. Both aspects can be seen at work in the study of Japanese culture. This course will provide an introduction to key Japanese cultural concepts, providing an overview of theories and their applications to specific cultural events and activities; and taking a critical look at approaches that attempt to define Japanese culture in terms of uniqueness and difference.

< 授業計画 Class Plan >

- 第 1 回 : Orientation; what is culture?
- 第 2 回 : Japanese (food) culture on film and video (1)
- 第 3 回 : Japanese (food) culture on film and video (2); cultural 'code words' (1)
- 第 4 回 : Cultural 'code words' (2)
- 第 5 回 : Cultural concepts 1: 'kenkyo'
- 第 6 回 : Cultural concepts 2: 'honne/tatemaie' and 'aimai'
- 第 7 回 : Cultural concepts 3: 'iitokodori'
- 第 8 回 : Mini-presentations (1)
- 第 9 回 : Cultural concepts 4: 'amae'
- 第 10 回 : Material traits: 'wabi-sabi' and 'karuta' (1)
- 第 11 回 : Material traits: 'wabi-sabi' and 'karuta' (2)
- 第 12 回 : Written examination (Early Out students)
- 第 13 回 : Social forms: festivals, ceremonies and annual events
- 第 14 回 : Mini-presentations (2)
- 第 15 回 : Final examination

< 評価方法 Evaluation >

Individual mini-presentations: 10%; final examination: 50%; mini-tests: 30%; attendance and participation: 10%.

< テキスト Textbooks >

A variety of set reading from essays in English on Japanese culture will be assigned.