



ARTS2633

A Cultural Survey of Japan: From Gods to Gadgets

Term Two // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Gregory Evon	g.evon@unsw.edu.au	By appointment	Morven Brown 233	N/A

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Sally McLaren	sally.mclaren@unsw.edu.au	TBC	TBC	N/A

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

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

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

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

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse key elements of Japanese civilization and culture
2. Articulate key changes in Japanese social and cultural structures
3. Analyse the relationship between civilisation and the individual

Teaching Strategies

Learning & Teaching Rationale: The content and approach to learning/teaching in this course enable students to develop an ability to analyse key historical/cultural interactions that have shaped Japan from the past to the present. It is the instructor’s view that knowledge of these historical/ cultural connections and facility in communicating them will enhance students’ development in their individual disciplines and programs. As a consequence, the assessment strategies used in the course are complementary. The exams emphasize core knowledge, which is a key component in the identified Learning Outcomes and Graduate Attributes, while Tutorial Leadership and the Critical Bibliography emphasize the development of essential research skills (i.e., scholarly enquiry, analytical/critical thinking, independent learning, and effective communication). Teaching Strategies: This course uses a blended approach of Lectures and Tutorials, organized around key readings as contained in the Readings. The Readings are available online through UNSW library database/s. Students are expected to have completed the readings before attending Lectures and come to Tutorials prepared to discuss the readings.

Assessment

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Tutorial leadership	10%	Not Applicable	1, 2
Critical bibliography	60%	02/08/2021 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3
Tutorial responses	30%	09/08/2021 11:00 PM	1, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Tutorial leadership

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Students lead a tutorial discussion by making a set of questions on a weekly reading for class discussion. Approximately 3-4 questions. Individual mark, with oral feedback to group.

Additional details:

Students will be divided into groups and will be responsible for leading Tutorials starting from Week 2. This will be discussed in further detail in Week 1.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Critical bibliography

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Approximately 1,500 words. Individual comments and rubric.

Additional details:

- (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 2 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.

- 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. As a general guide: in 2020 (terms 1 and 2), I had roughly 230 students, and among them, 5 got an NFD. 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.

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

Assessment 3: Tutorial responses

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

Students work in groups to respond to a set of Tutorial Questions posed by their classmates. Approximately 2,000 words. Rubric, group mark with oral feedback to group.

Additional details:

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.

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

Attendance Requirements

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

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 31 May - 4 June	Lecture	Part 1: Foundations Lecture 1: Myths of Ancestry
	Tutorial	Introductory Tutorial led by Teacher/Illustration
Week 2: 7 June - 11 June	Lecture	Lecture 2: Early Historical Sources
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 3: 15 June - 18 June	Lecture	Part 2: State Formation Lecture 3: The Chinese Model
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 4: 21 June - 25 June	Lecture	Lecture 4: Collapse of the Chinese Model and Military Rule
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 5: 28 June - 2 July	Lecture	Part 3: Tokugawa Japan (1603-1868) Lecture 5: The Tokugawa Shogunate
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 6: 5 July - 9 July	Lecture	No Lecture This Week
	Tutorial	No Tutorial This Week
Week 7: 12 July - 16 July	Lecture	Lecture 6: Baba Bunkō (1718-1759): Satirist and Troublemaker
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 8: 19 July - 23 July	Lecture	Part 4: Entering a New World Lecture 7: Revolution and the Meiji Restoration, 1868
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 9: 26 July - 30 July	Lecture	Lecture 8: War, Victory and Defeat: 1895-1945
	Tutorial	Student-Led
Week 10: 2 August - 6 August	Lecture	Lecture 9: Lingering Anxieties in Popular Culture
	Tutorial	Student-Led

Resources

Prescribed Resources

Reading List: A list of Readings, to be compiled by students, will be posted on Moodle. All of the Readings are available through UNSW Library after you log-in. (1) Book chapters are available through “Library collections” as e-books; (2) journal articles are available through database/journal searches.

Recommended Resources

Cambridge History of Japan; available at UNSW Library

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

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.

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, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

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 also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information 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 before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, 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.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and 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 also 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

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

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CRICOS

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.