Franklin & Marshall College—東北学院大学

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IST/JPN 210: Japanese Studies at Tohoku Gakuin University

Instructor: Prof. Fronefield Crawford Email: fcrawfor@fandm.edu

This course fulfills F&M's Non-Western Cultures (NW) course requirement.

This course will introduce you to the language and culture of Japan by allowing you to see and experience it for yourselves firsthand. We will spend two weeks traveling to various sites of interest in Japan, including Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima and Tokyo. Before this, however, you will be equipped with rudimentary language and cultural skills during an intensive three-day set of predeparture courses, and once in Japan, you will spend three weeks in Sendai completing coursework at Tohoku Gakuin University. Thus, this is by no means an ordinary sight-seeing trip. The hope, and expectation, is that, rather than floating through Japan as a detached outside observer, you will actively engage with the people you encounter there (your home-stay families, TGU students and teachers, tour guides in various cities, and people you meet along the way) so as to learn about the diversity of views, customs, values, and religious beliefs in contemporary Japan.

<u>Readings</u>: In addition to whatever assignments that are required in the language portion of the pre-departure courses, there will be a brief article you are to read before departure: "Deconstructing Japan" by Amino Yoshihiko (Amino is the family name or surname). Read John Hersey's "Hiroshima" before we leave Sendai in preparation for our travel to Hiroshima. It is a short, quick read; you could probably finish it on the plane. There will also be readings and/or other assignments in the TGU courses. If you would like to read more about Japan, you may find the following texts helpful (perhaps even enjoyable?):

Hane. Japan: A Short History; Sansom. The Western World and Japan; Duss. The Japanese

Discovery of America. Each provides a brief overview of either the broad sweep of Japanese history or a focused portion of it.

Denoonet. al. *Multicultural Japan*. This is an excellent, though somewhat challenging, collection of articles that problematizes and critiques enduring stereotypes of Japan.

Mackie. Feminism in Modern Japan; Sievers. Flowers in Salt. Both are helpful introductions to Feminism and Women's history in modern Japan.

Keene. Anthology of Japanese Literature; Bassho. The Narrow Road to the Deep North; Dunlop.

A Late Chrysanthemum: Twenty-one Stories from the Japanese; Morris. Modern Japanese Stories. Except for Bassho's text, these are various collections of pre-modern &

modern Japanese literature. I've added Bassho because I think you may like it.

Ienaga. *The Pacific War*; Dower. *War without Mercy*; Beasley. *Japanese Imperialism*; Hersey. *Hiroshima*. Various recent works on Japan at war.

Kitagawa. Religion in Japanese History; Ketelaar. Of Heretics and Martyrs in Meiji Japan; Suzuki. Essays in Zen Buddhism; Reader. Religion in Contemporary Japan. Overviews of Religion in Japan past and present.

Stanley-Baker. *Japanese Art*. An introduction to the art and architecture of Japan. Not to be read for its account of Japanese history, but it does include numerous images of artwork.

Lu, David. *Japan: A Documentary History*. Vols. 1 & 2; Tsunoda ed. *Sources of Japanese Tradition*. Vols. 1 & 2. These are two key sourcebooks. They contain a wide range of primary documents.

If you have an interest in a particular area or theme, please let me know and I will try to direct you to relevant readings.

<u>Course Requirements</u>: Regular attendance is expected and required in all courses and events associated with this program. Please do not be late for any class, meeting, event, flight/train departure, etc. While in Japan, you represent Franklin & Marshall College; showing up late or missing a class reflects badly on all of us.

<u>Grading</u>: This is a graded, for-credit course. Your final grade will be based on your participation (attendance of events and courses, active engagement with learning opportunities), on your performance in the pre-departure courses, on your performance in TGU courses, on journal entries, and on a final paper.

Late writing assignments will be accepted, but they will be marked down 0.4 grade points for every day they are late: e.g. a 4.0 (A) paper turned in one day late will receive a 3.6 (A-).

Participation: 25%

Pre-departure courses: 10% May 5, 6, 7

TGU courses: 20%

Journal Entries: 15%

Final Paper: 30% Due July 7th

<u>Academic Integrity</u>: All students are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. All papers and other graded work are to be completed in conformance with this policy. For specific guidelines, please refer to the statement on academic policies and procedures in the F&M Catalog.

<u>Participation</u>: Actively engage in all parts of this program. In TGU classes, TGU instructors are making great efforts to discuss their areas of expertise with you in English. Some are more fluent than others, but in all cases please give them your respect and attention. If you are seated in a classroom with computers, *do not surf the net or check email during a lecture*. During the two weeks of domestic travel, we will be accompanied by various tour guides appointed by TGU. Take advantage of their expertise. Interact with them, ask them questions, and learn from them.

<u>Journal Entries</u>: During your five weeks in Japan, you will keep a journal. Respond to the following issues/questions. You will turn in an entry approximately once per week. These should NOT simply be random thoughts jotted down in your notebook. These entries are to be carefully thought out, well-written, and well-organized. Although many of you will write your entries in a journal notebook (I recommend this), they should be equivalent to at least two double-spaced

typed pages.

- 1. What are your impressions of Japan? For many if not all of you, this will be your first trip to Japan. We all have stereotypes about others and ourselves. What are some of your (perhaps stereotypical) presuppositions about Japan and the Japanese people? Record your ideas about what you expect to find or experience there.
- 2. Homestay Family Interview: Use as much Japanese as you can to interview your homestay family. Ask about work, family members, parts of the world they have traveled to (or places they would like to go), their own impressions on what Japanese culture means, etc. This is a chance for you to get to know your homestay family better while learning a bit of Japanese.
- 3. Write an abstract for your final research paper. What is your topic and why is it worth examining? What key question are you addressing? How will you answer it, i.e., what will you argue? What sources will you use?
- 4. After your visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, discuss the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the US's decision to drop the bomb, and the consequences for the people of Hiroshima. Also consider the way the exhibit is contextualized: is Japan presented only as a victim or are other victims of Japan's war in Asia also discussed? Should they be?
- 5. For your final journal entry in Japan, review your first journal entry and discuss how your views of Japan and the Japanese have changed? Also, write your recommendations for next year's participants in this program. What should they know before going to Japan?

<u>Research Project</u>: Research and write an essay on a particular aspect of Japanese culture (topics to be decided in consultation with instructors). You should get started with this early (and note that one of your journal entries is to be an abstract for your project). The final essay should be 12-15 pages in length, typed and double-spaced, 12-point font. It should include a bibliographical listing of sources used and provide proper footnote citations.