

Japanese Traditional Performing Arts (Spring 2019)

Diego Pellecchia

This class focuses on the study of *nogaku*, Japan's performing art combining dance, drama, poetry, mask and costumes through literary and performance analysis. The course is led by Diego Pellecchia, *noh* scholar and practitioner. Students will learn about the history and aesthetic conventions of *noh* and *kyogen*, presented as a living traditions in the context of contemporary Japanese society. The course will provide ample opportunities to attend performances, visit artisans' laboratories, and participate in workshops with renown Japanese artists, to complement a solid academic background about the arts with a more direct, hands-on approach to the topics covered.

Performances often take place during the weekend: students are encouraged to check the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and keep those dates open. Outings are regarded as compulsory activities: presence will be counted toward the final grade. Students are expected to prepare readings in advance. Preparation will be tested with quizzes and short tests. As part of the final assignments, students will choose a topic for further individual research and present the results at the end of the semester. Presentation formats may include academic papers, translations, or creative works based on research. After the final presentation, students will write a 2500-3000-words essays and further elaborate on the same topic.

Readings and other handouts will be provided by the lecturers in advance.