

**Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies**  
**Course Descriptions**  
**Academic Year 2013-2014-Updated June 21, 2013**

## JAPANESE LANGUAGE COURSES

During both fall and spring semesters, all students take Japanese language, which is offered at three levels.

x = fall course; y = spring course

**Japanese KC4205x or 4206y. Third year Japanese.** 8 points Prerequisites: Japanese 1201/1202 or the equivalent. Placement will be determined by testing.

This Kyoto-based course prepares students to function beyond the basic level in a Japanese-speaking environment by developing and enhancing communicative competence through reviewing basic grammar and learning new grammar; reading short essays and articles with the help of a dictionary; completing short writing and speaking assignments using the formal style to describe, explain, and discuss socio-cultural topics; and enhancing listening comprehension.

**Japanese KC4217x or 4218y. Fourth year Japanese.** 8 points Prerequisites: Japanese 4005/4006, 4205/4206, or the equivalent. Placement will be determined by testing.

This Kyoto-based course emphasizes applications of correct grammar and strengthens academic communication skills by reading longer essays, articles, and novels with some dictionary work; completing reading and writing assignments in paragraph format using the formal style to describe, explain and discuss socio-cultural topics; and developing listen comprehension.

**Japanese KC4221x or 4222y. Fifth year Japanese.** 8 points Prerequisites: Japanese 4017/4018, 4217/4218, or the equivalent. Placement will be determined by testing.

This Kyoto-based course is tailored to individuals of advanced proficiency. Goals include advanced command of grammar, composition, and stylistics. Emphasis on academic Japanese prepares advanced language students to audit classes at a Japanese university, if appropriate.

## KCJS ELECTIVE COURSES

### FALL 2013

Students choose two courses from the following:

**East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 1. Business Systems and Strategies in Japan and Asia.** 4 points. Mari Kondo

Asia has demonstrated spectacular economic growth, and for the foreseeable future, it will continue to be the source of dynamism and wealth in the world. Meanwhile, Japan will still remain as one of the global economic powerhouses, yet with its decreasing population, Japan's relations to the rest of Asia are expected to deepen. Reflecting the above, most multinational corporations, including those from the US and Japan, are taking a regional approach rather than a national approach, i.e., developing strategies for East Asia or Asia rather than for Japan alone. For students who study Japanese, therefore, a familiarity with business systems and practices of both Japan and Asia, together with international business management basics, will help to enhance their

understanding of the interconnectedness of the region's economies and businesses, and at the same time widen their future career options.

With that in mind, through lectures, guest speaker sessions, corporate visits, case analyses, as well as group and individual work in this course, students are expected to gain: a basic understanding of international business management; skills to analyze business and management systems in Japan and Asia (China, Korea, Singapore, etc.); an understanding of the key players in Asian business (tentatively, Samsung from Korea; Heier from China; American businesses in Japan and Asia, such as P&G; and Japanese business in Asia, such as Shiseido); and insights as to how to utilize one's knowledge of Japan in the greater Asian context.

**East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 2. Politics and Policy Controversies in Japan.** 4 points. John Campbell

The Japanese political scene has been turbulent recently, not only in electoral and party politics but in disputes over major policy issues. This course will focus on several fundamental questions Japan faces today in economic, social, foreign, and constitutional policy, as significant in understanding contemporary Japan and in order to illuminate how Japanese politics works. For context, we begin with the basics of postwar political history and institutions, and then explore the substance and politics of selected policy debates. Although the course is not oriented to political science theoretical concerns, we maintain a comparative perspective throughout to highlight where Japan is distinctive and where—sometimes surprisingly—not.

**East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 3. Love and Death in Japanese Culture.** 4 points. Philip Flavin

Using the central existential questions of love, death, and beauty as thematic foci, this course examines the premodern history of the human being in Japan with the aim of exploring a different past and an other site for the study of the humanities as a viable measure of civil life. In the course of reading literature, both canonical and popular, which portray the thematics of love and death, we will analyze key concepts in Japanese cultural history that address issues of good and evil, truth, desire, and "the beautiful." Attention will be paid to questions of interpretation that arise in reading the works of a culture different from the West in its philosophies and religions; in the non-logocentrism of its linguistic usages and artistic expressions; its emphasis on form and ritual as a crucial component of the moral human being. We will also note the existence of various separate cultures--courtly, merchant, craftsman, samurai and priest, actor and geisha, each with its own hierarchy and code of ethics and aesthetics. Class materials will include, apart from the literary works such as *The Tale of Genji* and *Tales of the Heike*, secondary sources from criticism, history, philosophy and religion, sociology, as well as visual media like painting and film.

**East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 4. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Kyoto Artisans and their Worlds.** 4 points. Monica Bethe and Douglas Woodruff.

One of the attractions of the ancient capital of Japan is the variety of fine and applied arts that continue to feed the city. Geographically these include the textile workshops of Nishijin in the northwest of the city, the ceramic workshops in the southeast around Gojozaka, and the web of artisans supporting the traditional artist guilds: pigment producers, papermakers, stencil cutters, gold and silver foil craftsmen, carvers and printers. Through visits to studios and museums, the course will seek to give the students first-hand experience of not only the crafts, but also their changing role in supporting the lifeblood of Kyoto as a city. Weekly lectures and readings will provide historical, cultural, and technological background for each topic. Students will be expected to choose a personal focus to explore in depth and to present this to the class.

**East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 5. Selected Topics in Japanese Studies: Families and Work in Post-war Japan.** 4 points. Scott North

This course surveys outstanding examples of English language social science research on Japan to introduce developments in post-World War II Japanese social life. Using studies of families and work, we will analyze

factors that promoted both change and continuity in the social division of labor between these interdependent spheres. Our aim is to grasp how the cultural strategies for organizing contemporary Japanese social life were conditioned, first by rapid industrialization and growth, and later by relative economic stasis. We will pay attention to class, gender, and regional variations in work and family life, as well as to the role of social psychology in Japanese responses to work-family conflicts.

**East Asian Studies KC3993. Section 6. Japanese in Action: Language Use in the *Anime* of Miyazaki Hayao.** 4 points. Lindsay Yotsukura

This course examines the Japanese language in action, as utilized by the multitude of characters depicted in the *anime* films of Miyazaki Hayao. We will consider how language usage can vary depending upon a range of situational factors, for example, relative social distance between participants, type of interaction or event, in/out group membership, and attitudinal stance toward the topic of discussion. Readings, class discussions, and homework assignments will first consider English examples from everyday conversation in order to introduce a number of fundamental linguistic concepts, and subsequently apply them to Japanese excerpts drawn from Miyazaki's works. Special attention will be paid to how the linguistic behavior of a character contributes to his or her overall portrayal and identity in a film. Our discussions will also include comparisons of English translations in film dubbings and subtitles with the original Japanese in order to consider how various social actions such as requests, apologies, and invitations may be conveyed in the two languages. We conclude with group-based multimedia projects on related topics developed and presented by the students. *[No previous knowledge of linguistics is necessary or assumed for this class, but there will be a language co-requisite of Intermediate-Low on the ACTFL scale or permission of the instructor.]*

SPRING 2014

Students choose two courses from the following:

**East Asian Studies KC 3994. Section 1. Japanese Corporations.** 4 points. Mari Kondo.

The overarching objective of this course is to "understand" and also "experience" Japanese corporations. In this course, students will: visit Japanese corporations and plants; interact with managers; discuss business cases and participate in exercises to deepen their understanding; and study and make presentations on Japanese corporations. Through those activities, students will develop a solid grasp of various aspects of Japanese corporations especially in the areas of strategy, organization, human resource management, international management, technology and operation management, environmental management, and corporate social responsibility. Tentatively, the corporations we plan to visit (or invite) include Toyota, Panasonic, a Nintendo-related game production company, a traditional sake producer that is now known for their biotechnology, and a fashion and lifestyle-related company (UNIQLO and/or MUJI). Students will not only learn how to associate with Japanese executives and businesspeople, but also gain practical skills to analyze business issues and cases. Ultimately, the course is designed so that students will gain important insights and skills for their Japan-related career goals.

**East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 2. Immortals, Drop-outs, Female Rebels, and Courtiers in East Asian Literature.** 4 points. Wiebke Denecke.

Literature exists in space: writers are physical beings and in their works they often rely on a repertoire of spatial imagination that is distinctive of their literary tradition. Whether a literary work was written by a court lady, hidden away in a lavish residence in the capital and sensitive to the complex power politics outside her gates, by a monk given to devotional practices secluded in an austere hut in the mountains, an emperor in his

palace, the center of power, or a rebel attacking that very political center makes all the difference for how we understand and interpret their works and how we appreciate and apply their message to our own lives. In this course we compare East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese) texts on life inside, outside, and beyond society from past to present. We track down gods, monks, recluses, slackers, emperors, aristocrats, and court ladies in the places from which they wrote and explore the intersections of writing, living, and believing. In the process, the course aims to enable students to (a) think through literature spatially, which means to think systematically through how the spatial and social location of authors informs their beliefs and writings and how, in turn, the imagination of space in literature—courts, monasteries, heaven, nature—impinges on society and shapes history; (b) grasp East Asia as a cultural space beyond the entrenched national interpretations of literature in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam and acquire a nuanced understanding of the commonalities and regional differences within the literatures and cultures that make up today's East Asia; and (c) inhabit alternative spaces to our secular, democratic, and industrialized style of living in 21st century North America. Inhabiting those perspectives can help us to critically evaluate the styles of living in our historical moment.

**East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 3. Walking the Streets of Kyoto: Japan's Literary Capital.** 4 points. Wiebke Denecke.

In this course we explore the city of Kyoto through literary texts that were written in or about Japan's long-time (not just literary) capital, from its beginnings in the eighth century through our times. We take advantage of KCJS' location in the heart of the city to alternate readings of Kyoto and excursions to sites in and around Kyoto. We will first approach its cityscape as a whole, then explore one of Kyoto's and Japan's most famous gods—Tenjin-sama, the deified Sugawara no Michizane, then go to experience Kyoto as a stage of lust and love and war and aggression, and close on Kyoto as a place where the traditional culture of celebrating the four seasons in literature, arts, and lifestyle is still very alive. The course includes class excursions to Tenjin's Kitano Tenmangū Shrine, to sites connected to the Tale of Genji in Uji, and to Ōhara, a major commemorative site related to events in the warrior epic Tales of the Heike. Students will also undertake excursions on their own and investigate Kyoto's current seasonal culture through class reports.

**East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 4. The Practice and Aesthetics of Japanese Tea.** 4 points. Hillary Pedersen.

This seminar-style course focuses on various aspects of the formal preparation of tea, or *chanoyu*. Taking advantage of the rich tea culture of Kyoto and its environs, we will explore the visual and material culture of tea, its history, the ritualized act of preparing it, and the usage of tea in Buddhist contexts. We will also examine how tea is related to contemporary notions of hospitality and manners in everyday Japanese life, as well as to aesthetic sensibilities. When possible, visits to tea-related sites will be incorporated into the class schedule.

**East Asian Studies KC3994. Section 5. Exploring Language and Food in Kyoto: 京都を味わう** 4 points. Lindsay Yotsukura

This course investigates how local Kyoto food purveyors use language to market and present their wares, and how they communicate with customers. Students will act as casual "participant observers," making notes on spoken language use by staff and customers, and collecting samples of written language as illustrated in signs and flyers from shops and restaurants they visit during the semester. Class readings and discussions will draw upon the wealth of material in anthropology, ethnography, history, and literature on Japanese food culture, as well as relevant topics in linguistics. The course will also include class visits to selected shops, the central produce and fish wholesale market, and a newly-opened museum highlighting Kyoto's food culture and cuisine.

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a hands-on workshop for the creation of *wagashi*, and a lecture/demonstration cooking class with a renowned Kyoto food expert. The class concludes with a group meal consisting of dishes students create with foodstuffs purchased through local merchants.

**East Asian Studies KC3333. Kansai Area Art. 4 points, Karin Swanson**

The Kansai area, in particular the "golden triangle" formed by the cities of Kyoto, Osaka, and Nara, has been for most of Japanese history the center of the highest level of art production in the country. The dominant artistic role of Kansai was established in the tomb mounds of clan leaders from the 4th century, and continued on until political power and much artistic patronage shifted to Edo in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Assuming no prior experience in art history, the goal of the class is to maximize the experience of looking at Kansai art, much if it in its original context, focusing primarily on secular and religious painting and sculpture. Each of five chronological units will consist of readings, looking at examples of art in that period, and class discussion of issues influencing its production. Following this will be field trips to some of the most important sites studied, including temples, gardens, and museums.

**East Asian Studies KC3998. Independent Study. 4 points. Staff**

Independent study may be undertaken by full-year students in the spring semester, offering the opportunity for focused research using the Japanese language and taking advantage of local resources. Independent study normally involves directed reading and research, meeting weekly with a chosen advisor, and the writing of a final research paper. It will be permitted only for students whose language skills are adequate for the proposed research. Application must be made in the fall semester, and involves consultation with the director of KCJS and/or the KCJS Professor, arranging for an advisor in the area of interest, either from the KCJS staff or from the local academic and professional community, and submitting a clearly conceived plan of study with a proposed schedule and bibliography of readings and resources. In special circumstances, independent study may be jointly supervised by a faculty member from the student's home campus and a member of the KCJS staff in Kyoto. Independent study is particularly useful for formulating and gathering materials for a senior or honors thesis.