Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2024	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	ARTS/JPNA111		
Course Title	Calligraphy and Kanji Culture		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	REED William	Year Available (Grade Level)	1
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Arts	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Cap: 25 Students

Course Description

Shodo combines art, history, psychology, and physical skill. We'll explore these themes while practicing calligra reading it aloud, and understanding English translations.

Calligraphy exercises the whole brain, promoting concentration, awareness, posture, and breathing. Kanji improves imagination, spatial awareness, and coordination. This course teaches brush calligraphy within Kanji culture.

Kanji connects Chinese and Japanese cultures. You'll learn techniques for remembering and studying Kanji while de mindfulness. The brush will enhance your handwriting, mental focus, and character.

No prerequisites are needed; high performance is possible regardless of origin. Topics are explained in English f Japanese students and non-Japanese students.

The course includes short lectures, demonstrations, and practice with professor feedback. You'll master the meani beauty of Kanji by copying master models and controlling the brush for beautiful effects. The course also explore mindfulness, energy, and health through calligraphy.

Assessment focuses on skill in painting Kanji, Hiragana, Images, and knowledge of Calligraphy and Kanji culture. methods are presented in class; attendance and practice are important. Students find practicing calligraphy relax invigorating for mind and body. Enjoyable ways to progress will be taught.

Shodo is the art of painting Chinese and Japanese Characters. Brush calligraphy, like learning Classical Music or can be tricky. Yet, with 20 hours of focused practice and guidance, you can achieve remarkable skill by the end o course.

The course has 5 sections with new themes and practice pieces. We'll spend three weeks on each section, allowing practice and coaching. Continuous practice is vital for progress in calligraphy.

Our focus is improving brush skills, leading to better focus, space perception, line quality, mindfulness, and appreciation for Japanese culture through nature and poetry.

I'll introduce topics, and offer resources, tips, live demos, and videos. You'll get Tehon to copy masterworks an supplies like paper and ink. You'll need to buy a small brush, shitajiki under cloth, ink dish, designated notebo fude-pen, and pencil for outside practice. The final work must be on proper calligraphy paper with a real brush. of materials is estimated at 5,500 yen, and you must use the designated brush.

With three weeks, or six classes dedicated to each module, the class format will roughly follow this cycle for ea module, although variations may occur depending on student progress and to allow for the introduction of new mate is not directly part of the assessment but may spark interest in research topics for the final paper.

- Session 1) Introduce the Module, the Tehon and translations, and the practice materials.
- Session 2) Provide tips for Mastery, as well as demonstrations of techniques.
- Session 3) Focus on Practice to identify areas for improvement.
- Session 4) Deep practice focusing on concentration and refinement.
- Session 5) Review of translation and recitation practice.
- Session 6) Feedback and presentation of work for that module.

The Modules are based on these topics:

- 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (three weeks)
- Gain concentration and clarity by mastering balanced characters. Learn brush calligraphy through Chinese Literati with 8-character poems in three scripts.
- 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (three weeks)

Refine your spirit with the IROHA Poem using Heian style Hiragana. Explore Hiragana's origin and variations in He Script writing.

- 3) Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks)
- Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
- 4) 30-Kanji Notebook (three weeks)

Improve your memory using a fun and powerful way to master reading and writing Japanese Kanji. Write Kanji in a d notebook, following clear instructions for drawing and illustrating mnemonics in three colors.

5) Final Paper (three weeks)

Keep practicing course content, but focus on readings and finishing your Final Paper. Use the provided MLA Style Template, and cite references from your research. Guidelines will be given on what to write in your paper.

No Final Examination. Work for each module is due at the end of each module, however it will only be graded after week of the course. All items must be submitted by the end of the last week, before Finals Week.

Remember, attendance affects your grade. The more classes you miss or are late for, the less likely you are to ac full points for that module. Less than 70% attendance means automatic failure, as per school rules.

Previously, class size was capped at 40 students due to demand. The room fits 25, so extra students used the Fuji Lounge. However, this meant less individual feedback. Now, the cap is 25 students for better attention and progress feedback.

I've also updated the rubrics to be simpler and help students track their progress, plan study time, and choose a path toward their desired mastery level.

This course is face-to-face, with enough time for practice and feedback. High attendance is important, as classes aren't recorded, and being late or absent means missing crucial instructions.

I'll provide videos of brush techniques to review online, but learning in person is unbeatable. Videos help teach calligraphy and let you demonstrate your skills to get feedback.

Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year In-person classes offer direct feedback, painting with friends, and using high-quality materials. Students learn by watching and coaching each other in a cooperative spirit.

We'll focus on fundamentals while sharing your work outside class and displaying it for others to see.

I first came to Japan in 1972 as a college exchange student from the US. I started learning Aikido and Brush Calligraphy (Shodo) and fell in love with Japanese culture. Now, after fifty years, I have an 8th-dan in Aikido, a 10th-dan in Shodo, published several books, and teach at iCLA.

I've done calligraphy for World Heritage temples and shrines, exhibited in Ginza, and worked on Samurai documentaries. I even performed calligraphy with a Bach violinist at Nikkei Hall.

Currently, I'm Vice Chairman of the Japan Calligraphy Education Association. My latest book is Song of the Brush Dance of the Ink (Morgan James Publishing, May 2022). My first book was Shodo: the Art of Coordinating Mind, Body, and Brush (Japan Publications, 1989), and I've written papers for the Japan Creativity Society. I also have a column on Budo Japan called Brush is the Sword of the Mind.

Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)

Japanese Calligraphy has always been my core passion because of its ties to language and culture. Through exhibitions, commissions, performances on stage, TV, and documentaries, I keep learning and sharing insights with students on this journey.

My Calligraphy Teacher Ishizaki Hakuryu Sensei, who usually comes once in the semester as a Guest Lecturer, and provides support in the course practice materials, has also written several bestselling workbooks on how painting with a small brush can calm and reset your nervous system to promote mental health and brain balance. Two of these books were supervised by leading doctors in Japan who specialize in these subjects, and their endorsement lends considerable credibility to their benefits. Many students find improved concentration, calmness, and memory in the process of practicing Calligraphy in this Course. I will highlight the benefits of Calligraphy to reset and recover your mind-body balance.

The Learning goals are reflected in the Diploma Policy, the Content, and the approach to learning in this course.

Diploma Policy (DP)

DP1: To Value Knowledge

[Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge]

DP2: To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World

[Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, and a global and independent mindset to adapt changing world]

DP3: To Believe in Collaboration

[Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams]

DP4: To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility

[Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world]

Most of the Modules particularly focus on DP1 and DP2, with an emphasis on reading, writing, and reciting calligr various scripts and styles. Because Calligraphy practice is an individual rather than a team effort, working in t (DP3) does not apply, although students are encouraged to practice together outside of class to enhance social involvement. However, the Final Paper incorporates DP1, DP2, and DP4 because of the reading, writing, and reflect required.

Here are some examples of how these skills are cultivated in the Calligraphy and Kanji Culture Course.

CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyze literal and interpretative translations of Japanese and Chinese poetry in terms of historical context poetic license
- Develop an objective and critical eye when comparing differences between the master Tehon and your copy
- Analyze arguments in selected readings for the benefits of handwriting for brain health based on evidence and authority of sources behind the arguments

PROBLEM SOLVING

- Develop an accurate perception of characters that you will copy in terms of character geometry, stroke shape, a position, and correct balance and position in space
- Use grids, guidelines, and measuring tools to find the correct alignment and position of strokes until you lear judge by eye
- Learn to control the fine-tipped brush with proper technique, rhythm, and eye-hand coordination, so that you ca

the brush with precision and finesse

CREATIVE THINKING

- Learn to think in multiple dimensions by connecting meaning in reading, painting, and reciting poetry
- Develop your imagination by learning to recognize the way that strokes are written and abbreviated in three ma scripts of Kanji, and the roots of the Heiancho Kana
- Understand the similarities between how creativity is cultivated in Calligraphy compared to representational dr art, or performance of compositions in music

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

- Learn to think and express yourself in the language of a different culture and era
- Share and compare your understanding of the Mastery Tips by practicing with students from various countries
- Present your best Kanji Mnemonics and Illustrations in front of your peers to highlight individual styles and w remembering the Kanji

ORAL COMMUNICATION

- Demonstrate calligraphy through show-and-tell sessions
- Repeat coaching instructions and teach others
- Discuss English translations of poetry

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

The final paper includes:

- Research on a topic from assigned readings, with references and citations
- Writing on the benefits of calligraphy practice to the brain and nervous system
- Glossary of selected terminology used in Shodo practice

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

- Use of visual alignment tools will be demonstrated to facilitate perception of geometry and alignment in Kanji characters
- Aesthetic principles will be shown through the use of the Golden Ratio and Fibonacci numbers in beautiful calli
- Research will be introduced on brain activity and engagement during calligraphy, which is to be referenced in t Paper

ICLA Diploma Policy DPI/DP2/DP4	iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP4
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iCLA Diploma Policy

- (DP1) To Value Knowledge Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge
- (DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world
- (DP3) To Believe in Collaboration Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams
- (DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

	Problem-Based Learning/Flipped Classroom/Discussion, Debate/Pres	sentation/Workshop, Fi	eldwork
Active Learning Methods			
	Active Learning Methods are in the Calligraphy and Kanji Culture Course. Calligraphy painting needs focus and full mind-body engagement. This depth shows in the work's quality. Kanji Mnemonics use imagination, visuals, and storytelling for key words. Readings, Final Paper, and class discussions develop critical thinking and explore cultural aspects. The Seal-Carving Workshop lets students create hand-carved seals, and the GALA allows them to share their work with a broader audience.		
	ITC helps students view their paintings uniquely using videos for brush techniques, speed, and rhythm. Calligraphy is studied with grids and Fibonacci overlays for geometry. Videos showcase Calligraphy and Kanji Culture aspects hard to demonstrate in person. Students use ChatGTP and AI tools for better questions and research. Analog tools in Calligraphy enhance senses and eye-hand coordination. Photos and audio recordings let students experience the visual and auditory aspects of Calligraphy as a Liberal Art.		
	focused practice and guidance, students can greatly enhance their calligraphy skills. So, plan to spend each week two extra hours preparing and three hours practicing outside of class. This includes brush practice, pen note-taking, poem reading, and working on the final paper. By dedicating at least five hours a	expected to be spent	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)

	The Course is organized into 5 Modules, with the last class of each module dedicated to review and feedback. Students can submit questions to the Q&A section on UNIPA, and I will address the questions on the Review Day or sooner, as many times other students may have similar questions.
	Office Hours by Appointment on Wednesday, generally between 13:00~14:30.
	Work is due at the end of each module, but will not be graded until the end of the course.
Feedback Methods	We'll practice with the Small Brush and use master copies for guidance. Mastery is our goal, enhancing concentration, creativity, and clarity. Coaching will include English translations, reading aloud, and understanding Kanji roots. This requires practice and review outside of class, without which it will be difficult to complete the work or get a good grade.
	Students see close-up demonstrations of painting calligraphy through videos and annotated notes on brush techniques. In-class feedback helps you improve by applying mastery tips and learning how to practice effectively.
	Watching peers allows you to ask questions and fully grasp the process. Working in pairs makes learning fun and productive.

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts	20%	Learn to create accurate Tehon copies, read them aloud, and understand their translated meaning.
IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script	20%	Learn to create accurate Tehon copies, read them aloud, and understand their translated meaning.
Fine brush handwriting	20%	Learn to create accurate Tehon copies, read them aloud, and understand their translated meaning.
Kanji Mnemonics Illustrations and Pen Practice Notebook	20%	Use designated notebooks for practice, 30- Kanji mnemonics, and illustrations.
Final Paper	20%	Use the provided MLA template, cite references, and show knowledge from readings and reflections.

Required Textbook(s)	Master Tehon offers copies in all scripts and styles for the course, including Worksheets and Master copies. No need to buy textbooks, as PDFs are provided. Recommended readings can be found in the YGU Library, giving plenty of study resources.
Other Reading Materials/URL	GOALSCAPE: https://goalscape.app/#/public/8382f1d1-f92f-431a-949e-319d150782ad My books on reserve in the library: Song of the Brush Dance of the Ink (Morgan James Publishing) Shodo: the Art of Coordinating Mind, Body, and Brush (Japan Publications) Papers I published for the Japan Creativity Society: Shodo in the Digital Age Enhanced Creativity and Concentration in Mastery of Kanji by Foreign Students Also, references in the Library on Japanese Ink Painting, Haiku Poetry books, and a Shodo terminology dictionary.
Plagiarism Policy	In calligraphy, beginners copy from a Tehon or Master Copy. But don't trace it. I can easily tell if you do. Traced work won't be graded and could be called plagiarism. Show me you can paint freehand in class. Feel free to use ChatGTP and other AI tools for research and asking good questions. But your writing must be original and show your thoughts and experiences. Explain and justify your work. Copying AI-generated text will get fewer points or possibly none!

Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	Keep a beginner's mind and be willing to learn. Follow tips, use materials correctly, practice, and listen to feedback. In two or three months, you'll see amazing progress to be proud of. But some students think effort alone deserves a good grade. Both student and instructor must work hard for great results. Visual Art is seen first, then understood. Literature is read first, then seen with your mind's eye. Calligraphy is both Visual Art and Literature, enjoyed with all your senses. Students using Kanji in their native language can read it but may struggle to see it with fresh eyes. They should focus on the Tehon and overcome handwriting habits and reading tendencies. Those new to Kanji and Kana or Japan often develop accuracy in seeing and painting skills. They should grow this ability while learning to read and understand their writing. My goal is to help students see, read, appreciate, and create great calligraphy pieces painted by their own hand.
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(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule		
Class Number	Content	
	Section 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (3 Weeks) Mindfulness and Mastery Through Poetry of the Chinese Literati	
Class 1	Session 1: Overview of the objectives, content, and resources for the module.	
	Introduction to the Module, the Tehon, translations, and practice materials.	
	Section 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (3 Weeks) Mindfulness and Mastery through Poetry of the Chinese Literati	
Class 2	Session 2: Practicing and engaging with the content.	
Class 2	Provide tips for Mastery, as well as demonstration of techniques.	
	Section 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (3 Weeks) Mindfulness and Mastery through Poetry of the Chinese Literati	
	Session 3: Practicing and engaging with the content.	
Class 3	Focus on practice to identify areas of improvement.	
	Section 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (3 Weeks) Mindfulness and Mastery through Poetry of the Chinese Literati	
	Session 4: Practicing and engaging with the content.	
Class 4	Review of translation and recitation practice.	
	Section 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (3 Weeks) Mindfulness and Mastery through Poetry of the Chinese Literati	
	Session 5: Practicing and engaging with the content.	
Class 5	Deep Practice to produce best work.	
	Section 1) 8-Character Poem in 3 Scripts (3 Weeks) Mindfulness and Mastery through Poetry of the Chinese Literati	
	Session 6: Review and Feedback on Progress.	
Class 6	Feedback and the presentation of work for this module.	

	Section 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (3 weeks) Refine your Spirit and Rhythm through the beautifully balanced Heian script
	Session 1: Overview of the objectives, content, and resources for the module.
Class 7	Introduce the Module, the Tehon and translations, and the practice materials.
	Section 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (3 weeks) Refine your Spirit and Rhythm through the beautifully balanced Heian script
	Session 2: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 8	Provide tips for Mastery, as well as demonstration of techniques.
	Section 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (3 weeks)
	Refine your Spirit and Rhythm through the beautifully balanced Heian script
Class 9	Session 3: Practicing and engaging with the content.
01855 9	Focus on practice to identify areas for improvement.
	Section 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (3 weeks)
	Refine your Spirit and Rhythm through the beautifully balanced Heian script Session 4: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 10	Deep practice focusing on concentration and refinement.
	Section 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (3 weeks) Refine your Spirit and Rhythm through the beautifully balanced Heian script
	Session 5: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 11	Review of translation and recitation practice.
	Section 2) IROHA Poem in Heian Kana Script (3 weeks) Refine your Spirit and Rhythm through the beautifully balanced Heian script
	Session 6: Review and Feedback on Progress.
Class 12	Feedback and presentation of work for that module.
	Section 3: Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks)
	Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
Class 13	Session 1: Overview of the objectives, content, and resources for the module.
	Introduce the Module, the Tehon and translations, and the practice materials.
	Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks) Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
	Session 2: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 14	Provide tips for Mastery, as well as demonstrations of techniques.
	Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks) Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
	Session 3: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 15	Focus on Practice to identify areas for improvement.

	Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks)
	Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
Class 16	Session 4: Practicing and engaging with the content.
	Deep practice focusing on concentration and refinement.
	Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks) Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
	Session 5: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 17	Review of translation and recitation practice.
	Fine Brush Handwriting (three weeks) Write and recite passages from Japanese poetry to improve appreciation and handwriting.
	Session 6: Review and Feedback on Progress.
Class 18	Feedback and presentation of work for that module.
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notebook (3 Weeks) Improve your Memory and Literacy through a fun and powerful method of reading and writing Kanji
	Session 1: Overview of the objectives, content, and resources for the module.
Class 19	Introduce the Module, the Heisig Method, and how to make entries in the Notebook.
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notebook (3 Weeks)
	Improve your Memory and Literacy through a fun and powerful method of reading and writing Kanji
	Session 2: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 20	Provide tips for Memory Mastery with the Kanji, as well as demonstrations on how to record the Mnemonics and Illustrations.
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notebook (3 Weeks)
	Improve your Memory and Literacy through a fun and powerful method of reading and writing Kanji
Class 21	Session 3: Practicing and engaging with the content.
	Focus on Practice to add to and improve Notebook entries.
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notebook (3 Weeks) Improve your Memory and Literacy through a fun and powerful method of reading and writing Kanji
	Session 4: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 22	Deep practice to complete and refine Notebook entries.
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notebook (3 Weeks) Improve your Memory and Literacy through a fun and powerful method of reading and writing Kanji
	Session 5: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 23	Review of Heisig Method and how to present your Notebook entries.
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notahook (3 Waaks)
	Section 4: 30-Kanji Notebook (3 Weeks) Improve your Memory and Literacy through a fun and powerful method of reading and writing Kanji
	Session 6: Review and Feedback on Progress.
Class 24	Feedback and presentation of work for that module.

	5) Final Paper (3 Weeks) Final Paper with Key Calligraphy Concepts and Personal Learnings
	Session 1: Overview of the objectives, content, and resources for the module.
Class 25	Introduce the Module, the resources for research, and the format for the Final Paper.
	5) Final Paper (3 Weeks) Final Paper with Key Calligraphy Concepts and Personal Learnings
	Session 2: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 26	Provide tips for insightful writing and possible topics for research.
	5) Final Paper (3 Weeks) Final Paper with Key Calligraphy Concepts and Personal Learnings
	Session 3: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 27	Review possible terminology and concepts for Calligraphy.
	5) Final Paper (3 Weeks)
	Final Paper with Key Calligraphy Concepts and Personal Learnings
	Session 4: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 28	Deep focus on research using PDF and YGU Library resources.
	5) Final Paper (3 Weeks) Final Paper with Key Calligraphy Concepts and Personal Learnings
	Session 5: Practicing and engaging with the content.
Class 29	How to integrate personal learnings into your paper.
	5) Final Paper (3 Weeks) Final Paper with Key Calligraphy Concepts and Personal Learnings
	Session 6: Review and Feedback on Progress.
Class 30	Feedback on passages from student work before submitting Final Papers.