

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Odd Years
Course Number	ARTS/JPNA220		
Course Title	Japanese Art and Aesthetics		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	BLOW Michael	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
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

Course Description	<p>Course cap: 25 students</p> <p>This survey course introduces the aesthetics of Japanese art, architecture and traditional crafts. It is broadly arranged in three themes that are run concurrently throughout the semester:</p> <p>Theme 1: History. The history theme provides a chronological approach as a historical framework, and covers master works from all periods. Beyond the identification of iconic images, salient architectural features and objects such as those used in the tea ceremony, the course explores the traditional forms of Japanese art and crafts.</p> <p>Theme 2 Aesthetics: An exploration of the ideas that form the Japanese aesthetic. Mainly explored by reading and discussion, we cover how these are embodied in historical works, and how they have been interpreted and extended in the present day.</p> <p>Theme 3 Forms: Students give an in-depth graded presentations on one example of Japanese art of their choice, for example ukiyo-e, kimono, anime, manga, pottery, metalwork and swords etc</p> <p>The course is delivered through lectures, readings/discussions, and presentations. Assessment is by short homework questions on the readings, a graded presentation on a Japanese art form of your choice, and a paper.</p> <p>DPI: To Value Knowledge Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge</p> <p>DP3: To Believe in Collaboration Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	<p>Altered format to combine history and aesthetics sections.</p> <p>Added short assessed questions based on the readings.</p>
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	Experience of general art history and aesthetics
Learning Goals	<p>At the end of this course students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) identify a variety of Japanese artwork and architecture by type, use, and period, 2) explain general principles of Japanese aesthetics using the proper terms, 3) ask informed questions and express reasoned opinions regarding unknown works, 4) demonstrate an informed appreciation for the art and architecture of Japan 5) become more reflective, curious, and open-minded 6) share ideas and construct meanings together with others

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP3
---------------------	---------

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

Active Learning Methods	Discussion, Debate/Group Work/Presentation/Workshop, Fieldwork				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	Group presentation Readings and discussion Requirement to view and write about a piece of Japanese Art				
Use of ICT	Normal classroom ICT: projector audio etc				
Contents of class preparation and review	Class review and pre-class reading	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Verbal and written, via tutorials and project/paper feedback				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Worksheet questions	25%	Graded question based on readings
Presentation	35%	Presentation on a specific form of Japanese culture
Paper	40%	Paper on the history and aesthetics of an artwork

Required Textbook(s)	None
Other Reading Materials/URL	No mandatory texts, but the following will be of interest. Many of these are available in the YGU library and also as pdfs online. J. Stanley-Baker. Japanese Art. Thames and Hudson A. Juniper. Wabi Sabi. Tuttle J. Tanizaki. In Praise of Shadows. Vintage. K. Okakura. The Book of Tea. Penguin. S. Shonagon. The Pillow Book. M. Shikibu. The Tale of Genji. M. Yanagi. The Unknown Craftsman: a Japanese insight into Beauty
Plagiarism Policy	Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. This includes material copied or paraphrased from online sources, or generated by AI. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. Depending on the nature of the plagiarism you may fail the assignment or the course. Repeated act of plagiarism will be reported to the University which may apply additional penalties.

Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>1) A Note on A.I. It is my observation that A.I. writes terrible papers. They are typically full of complicated words but do not contain much information, they often include chronic repetition of information from one paragraph to the next, and they do not include proper referencing. Papers on this course will be strictly graded according to academic standards. It is my strong recommendation that, if you use A.I., you use it for research only and any writing that you submit is hand-written by yourself. An insightful written piece containing your own thoughts and observations, even if the spelling or grammar is not perfect, will earn you a better grade than the superficial nonsense that A.I. tends to produce.</p> <p>2) Please note this syllabus is indicative only and may change due to external events or for pedagogical reasons</p>
---	---

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	Lecture: Course Introduction
Class 2	Lecture: Course Introduction
Class 3	Lecture: Prehistory
Class 4	Assignment Briefs
Class 5	Lecture: The Asuka and Nara Period
Class 6	Reading: Soetsu 'The Japanese Perspective'
Class 7	Lecture: The Heian Period
Class 8	Reading: Sei Shonagon 'Pillow Book'
Class 9	Lecture: Wabi Sabi
Class 10	Reading: Various, Wabi Sabi and Mono no Aware
Class 11	Lecture: The Kamakura period

Class 12	Presentation Tutorial
Class 13	Lecture: Shibui
Class 14	Graded presentations
Class 15	Lecture: The Azuchi / Momoyama Period
Class 16	Graded presentations
Class 17	Lecture: Yuugen and Ma
Class 18	Graded presentations
Class 19	Lecture: The Edo Period
Class 20	Graded presentations
Class 21	Lecture: Miyabi and Iki
Class 22	Graded presentations
Class 23	Lecture: The Modern Period
Class 24	Reading: Tanizaki 'In Praise of Shadows'
Class 25	Lecture: Kawaii

Class 26	Reading: Kinsella 'Cuties in Japan'
Class 27	Paper Tutorial
Class 28	Paper Tutorial
Class 29	Paper Tutorial
Class 30	Paper Tutorial