

Year/Semester	2025年度 1 期
Day/Period	Wed.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 207 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japan and the World: Art, Literature and Contemporary Culture
Instructor	ELLIS Toshiko(エリス トシコ)

Course Description	<p>The aim of this course is to offer opportunities for students to familiarize themselves with materials related to Japanese culture and society. In the first part of the semester, we will discuss the basics of traditional Japanese world view, paying particular attention to the relationship between nature and humans, looking into architecture and gardening. We will then move on to the modern period and will also discuss the state of Japanese culture today. For reading, we will be dealing with materials from a variety of genres including traditional haiku poetry, fairytales and some contemporary writing.</p> <p>This is a joint class for both local and international students.</p> <p>[Class preparation] Studying the material prior to class (180 min./week) [Class format] All in-person classes except week 14.</p> <p>Students will be given materials in class, on which they will be asked to give comments. The class will consist of lectures, discussion and mini-presentations. Materials will be given in English or Japanese. English translation will be provided for materials written in Japanese.</p> <p>The class will be conducted in English, though minimum explanation may be given in Japanese where necessary.</p>
Syllabus	<p>Materials are subject to change depending on the interest of students.</p> <p>Week 1 Introduction Week 2 Traditional Japanese worldview: Shinto and Buddhism Week 3 Traditional Japanese haiku: What makes haiku Japanese? How is it related to contemporary sensibility? Week 4 Japanese architecture and gardening I: Introduction Week 5 Japanese architecture and gardening II: Reading "In Praise of Shadows" Week 6 Summary session: On traditional Japanese aesthetics Week 7 Japanese folklore: "Hoichi, the Earless" (short film) Week 8 Japanese fairytale: "Momotaro" (Peach boy) Week 9 Japanese fairytale (2): Modern rewriting Week 10 Contemporary short story: Hiromi Kawakami "Kamisama" ("God Bless You") Week 11 Contemporary Japanese culture I: From the 1960s to the present Week 12 Contemporary Japanese culture II: What is happening in Japan today? Week 13 Discussing Japanese culture in world context Week 14 Summary discussion</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Class participation and response paper: 60%, Semester essay: 40%
Textbooks	Materials will be provided in class.