

## SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

# JAPANESE PROGRAMME

## JAPA 113 INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY

TRIMESTER 2 2011

11 July to 12 November 2011

Please read through this material very carefully in the first week of the course, and refer to it regularly.

## Trimester dates

Teaching dates: 11 July to 14 October 2011

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2011

Study week: 17–21 October 2011

Examination/Assessment period: 21 October to 12 November 2011

Please note students should be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

## Withdrawal dates

Information on withdrawals and refunds may be found at

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawsrefunds.aspx>

## **Names and contact details**

**Course Coordinator** Assoc. Prof. Edwina Palmer

**Lecturer and Tutor:** Office: vZ 706

Phone: 463 6465

Email: [edwina.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:edwina.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

## School Administrator:

Nina Cuccurullo

Office: v7 610

Phone: 463 5293

Email: nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz

Reception Hours: 9.00am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday

## **Contact Person for Maori & Pacific Island Students & Students with Disabilities:**

Dr Ross Woods

Office: v7 507

Phone: 463-5098

Email: [ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:ross.woods@vuw.ac.nz)

## **Class times and locations**

- a) Lectures: (2 hours per week)  
Tuesday: 12noon - 2.00pm KKLT301
- b) Tutorials: (1 hour per week)  
Wednesday 10.00am - 10.50am vZ710  
Wednesday 11.00am - 11.50am vZ710  
Wednesday 1.10pm - 2.00pm vZ710  
Wednesday 2.10pm - 3.00pm vZ710

Please note that tutorials start in the second week of the trimester.

Students must choose oral and audiovisual class groups by signing up using the S-cubed system, <https://signups.victoria.ac.nz>. You remain in your allotted group for the whole course, unless a change is authorised by the Course Coordinator.

Please also note that cell phones and pagers should be switched off for the duration of all classes and tutorials.

## **Course delivery**

This course consists of two hours of lectures and one hour of tutorial per week. There is no tutorial in the first week.

## **Communication of additional information**

Any additional information relating to this course will be communicated on Blackboard and/or the Japanese notice board situated on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of the von Zedlitz Building, and/or by email to your Vic email address. You are urged to check Blackboard, your Vic emails, and the notice board regularly.

## **Course Prescription**

This course, taught in English, is designed to introduce students to major aspects of the history, society, cultures and language of Japan. The course will provide a good all-round basic knowledge of Japan that will be of value both to students intending to major in Japanese and those interested in Asia. No knowledge of Japanese language is required.

## **Course content**

The main focus of the course will be on the social organisation of Japanese society, social behaviour, and various cultural phenomena associated with Japan. The course takes an inter-disciplinary approach to the study of Japan through geography, history, anthropology, sociology, philosophy and religious studies. Topics will include the following:

Land and people  
Social structures  
Religion and thought  
Socialisation and education  
Cultural concepts such as gift exchange practices  
Some aspects of Japanese literature

On completion of this course students should have acquired a general understanding of several fundamental aspects of modern Japanese society; its people, culture, social structure, systems and problems. Students should have acquired knowledge of how Japan has changed over past centuries to its present situation and the challenges it faces in the future.

\*A tentative schedule of the course content can be found at the end of this Course Outline.

## Learning objectives

By the end of this course, students who pass should:

1. be able to analyse critically the nature of social, economic and cultural change in Japan in a variety of contexts;
2. have a deepened understanding of various social and cultural issues;
3. be further equipped to consider issues in Japanese Studies from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities and social sciences (e.g. History, Sociology, Anthropology, Music).

## Expected workload

The University anticipates that you should be able to devote about 13 hours per week to a 20 point course including class contact time, background reading, research, and work on assessments. **Please note that this is a rough guideline only.** Some students will find they need to do more, and students aiming for high grades will almost certainly need to do more.

## Readings

Prescribed readings will be available on Blackboard. Adequate advance preparation through reading, research, informed participation and presentation in tutorials is very important. In order to get the most out of the course, you should complete the assigned reading **before** each relevant lecture and tutorial.

Students aiming at high grades and those with specialised interests are urged to avail themselves of the extensive reading lists that will be provided on Blackboard in addition to 'prescribed readings.'

## Assessment requirements

This course is internally assessed. The assessment for the course has been designed so as to ensure students are familiar with a number of major aspects of Japanese culture and society as well as help them develop necessary research, analytical, writing and presentation skills.

The breakdown of the assessment is as follows:

1)	<b>Progress Test</b>	(due 9 August)	25%
2)	<b>Journal</b>	(due 17 August)	20%
3)	<b>Essay</b>	(due 21 September)	25%
4)	<b>Final Test</b>	(2 hours, held in-class 11 October)	30%

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from the Course Materials section of Blackboard or from the School of Languages and Cultures (SLC) Reception area. Assignments are to be handed in to the Japanese Programme assignment box. This is located to the left of the SLC Reception area, vZ 610, opposite the lifts on the 6th floor of von Zedlitz.

No responsibility will be taken for assignments, including essays, that have been placed in open staff mailboxes, pushed under doors, etc. You should keep all notes and rough drafts until your marked essay is returned to you.

## **Researched essay**

The essay should be no less than 1,500 words and no more than 2,000 words. The purpose of the essay is to introduce you to researching topic over a period of weeks, marshalling evidence for your argument, and presenting your considered academic opinion in an appropriate style of academic English. The text should be double-spaced typed and the word count given on the cover sheet. Be sure to focus on answering the question, and use carefully chosen examples to reinforce the argument of the essay. Do not pad your bibliography; it should contain references only to those books and articles you have actually read in preparation for, and referred to in, your essay.

You must submit your essay in 2 forms: both **paper** and **electronically**.

**1. Submission of paper text:**

Due in by 5pm 21 September 2011, JAPA Assignment Box, von Zedlitz Building Level 6 Reception.

You must attach the specified cover sheet.

You must check all details and sign the cover sheet.

Submit any time before the deadline.

Your paper essay text must be an **identical** printout of your electronic text.

Ensure that your name, student ID **and** course code (JAPA 113) are included on the first page of your writing.

**2. Electronic submission to Turnitin:**

Ensure that your name and student ID are included on the first page of your writing.

You must follow all instructions on the instruction sheet (class handout and in Essay Box of Blackboard) and the relevant all-class email.

Allow time (at least 10–15 minutes) to set up your account.

Submit using your surname + given name, in that order, please.

You may submit **only once**. Resubmissions are not possible.

Detailed instructions will be issued nearer the time.

You may submit from Tuesday 31 August onwards.

You **must** submit before 11.59 p.m. (2359 hours) Wednesday 21 September.

## **Journal**

Keep a journal of your critiques of the Prescribed Readings for the course. The purposes of the journal are (a) to introduce you to reading a wide range of relevant information in a variety of styles, (b) help you to learn how to summarise the main points, and (c) help you to learn how to critique what you read. There should be at least FIVE entries. Your journal as a whole should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words. Comments should be clear, relevant, cogent and comprehensible. The deeper and more considered is your analysis, the better your grade will be. Provide complete bibliographic references for each piece. One of the tutorials will be designed around giving you practice with the sort of analysis you will be expected to use for your journal.

## **Penalties**

Assignments must be handed in on the deadlines specified to avoid penalties. **5% per day (counting an individual piece of work as 100%) will be deducted from work submitted after the assigned date** without prior permission or without a necessary and demonstrable reason such as illness. While extensions will usually be granted on request, work that comes in after the original deadline will receive only minimal comments from your marker.

Please keep to the word counts; essays that fall below or go over the limit can expect to lose marks. If prior notification of absence is not received before a test, the piece of assessment missed will receive a nil mark. No make-up tests will be offered.

Students caught cheating/plagiarising others' work in any form may be listed on the University Academic Misconduct register and will be dealt with according to the University's plagiarism and academic misconduct guidelines.

### **Mandatory course requirements**

Students are required to attend at least 80% of the 3 hours of classes per week (2 hours of lectures and 1 hour of tutorial). Students may sign only themselves and not classmates into lectures and tutorials. Students may attend only the tutorial they are enrolled in. If you find you can no longer attend a tutorial time due to a change in personal circumstances, you must consult with the Course Coordinator. All assignments must be submitted and all tests sat.

### **Class representative**

A class representative will be elected in the first class, and that person's name and contact details will be available to VUWSA, the Course Coordinator and the class. The class representative provides a communication channel to liaise with the Course Coordinator on behalf of students. Class representatives will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how your courses are going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have.

### **Use of Turnitin**

Student work provided for assessment in this course may be checked for academic integrity by the electronic search engine <http://www.turnitin.com>. Turnitin is an online plagiarism prevention tool which compares submitted work with a very large database of existing material. At the discretion of the Head of School, handwritten work may be copy-typed by the School and subject to checking by Turnitin. Turnitin will retain a copy of submitted material on behalf of the University for detection of future plagiarism, but access to the full text of submissions is not made available to any other party.

### **Academic integrity and plagiarism**

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately, including citation of page numbers.

This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

Find out more about plagiarism, how to avoid it and penalties, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>.

## Where to find more detailed information

Find key dates, explanations of grades and other useful information at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study).

Find out how academic progress is monitored and how enrolment can be restricted at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress.aspx>.

Most statutes and policies are available at [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy), except qualification statutes, which are available via the *Calendar* webpage at <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/calendar.aspx> (see Section C).

Other useful information for students may be found at the website of the Assistant Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at [http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/avcacademic/](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/avcacademic/).

## Course programme

### JAPA 113 TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT 2011

Week	Commencing	Tutorial	Lecture Topics
1	11 July	—	Intro
2	18 July		Land
3	25 July	Journal Guidance	Origins; Population
4	1 Aug	Essay Guidance	Shinto; Mythology
5	8 Aug		<b>Progress Test - Tues 9 Aug: 25%</b>
6	15 Aug	<b>Journal due Wed 17 Aug: 20%</b>	Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism
7	5 Sept		Festivals; Rites of Passage
	12 Sept		The Family; Education
9	19 Sept	<b>Researched Essay due Wed 21 September: 25%</b>	Government; Law
10	26 Sept		Non-verbal communication; Gift Exchange
11	3 Oct		Minorities
12	10 Oct	Revision	<b>Final Test - Tues 11 Oct: 30%</b>