



**FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES**

**JAPANESE PROGRAMME  
JAPA 113 INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

**20 POINTS**

**TRIMESTER 2 2013**

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

### Important dates

**Trimester dates:** 15 July to 17 November 2013

**Teaching dates:** 15 July to 18 October 2013

**Mid-trimester break:** 26 August to 8 September 2013

**Study period:** 21–25 October 2013

**Withdrawal dates:** Refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds)

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)

### Names and contact details

**Course Coordinator  
Lecturer:** Assoc. Prof. Edwina Palmer  
Office: vZ706  
Phone: 463 6465  
Email: [edwina.palmer@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:edwina.palmer@vuw.ac.nz)

**Tutor:** Shomi Yoon  
Office: vZ709  
Phone: 463 4846  
Email: [shomi.yoon@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:shomi.yoon@vuw.ac.nz)

**School Administrators:** Nina Cuccurullo  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5293  
Email: [nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nina.cuccurullo@vuw.ac.nz)

Sarah Walton  
Office: vZ610  
Phone: 463 5318  
Email: [sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:sarah.walton@vuw.ac.nz)

School office hours: 9.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday

**Contact Person for Māori  
and Pasifika Students:** Dr Vanessa Frangville  
Office: vZ703  
Phone: 463 6463  
Email: [vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:vanessa.frangville@vuw.ac.nz)

**Contact Person for Students with Disabilities:** Dr Carolina Miranda  
Office: vZ502  
Phone: 463 5647  
Email: [carolina.miranda@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:carolina.miranda@vuw.ac.nz)

**School Website:** [www.victoria.ac.nz/slc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/slc)

### Class times and locations

- a) Lectures: (2 hours per week)  
Tuesday: 1.10pm - 3.00pm in HU (Hunter) LT119
- b) Tutorials: (1 hour per week)
- |          |                   |                      |
|----------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Thursday | 11.00am - 11.50am | vZ (von Zedlitz) 510 |
| Thursday | 12noon - 12.50pm  | vZ (von Zedlitz) 509 |
| Thursday | 2.10pm - 3.00pm   | vZ (von Zedlitz) 515 |
| Thursday | 3.10pm - 4.00pm   | vZ (von Zedlitz) 515 |

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.

### 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. You are urged to check Blackboard, your Vic emails, and the notice board regularly.

### 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:

The people, population and families  
Social structures  
Religion and thought  
Socialisation and education  
Cultural concepts such as gift exchange practices and non-verbal communication  
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.

### Course learning objectives (CLOs)

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

1. demonstrate a general understanding of the development of Japanese culture and society;
2. analyse critically in writing the nature of social, economic and cultural change in Japan in a variety of contexts;
3. consider issues in Japanese Studies at a basic level from a variety of disciplinary perspectives in the humanities and social sciences (e.g. History, Sociology, Anthropology).

### Teaching format

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

### Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50% students are required to do the following, unless specific exemptions have been agreed to:

- (i) complete the written tests on the date indicated;
- (ii) complete the written assignment by the due date
- (iii) attend a minimum of 80% of the tutorials.

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. You may attend only the tutorial you 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.

### 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.

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.'

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 are expected to study the set readings before the relevant tutorial** and come prepared both to question and actively discuss in class the issues they raise.

### 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. Essays will give students the opportunity to pursue at greater length aspects of Japanese culture and society that particularly

interest them. The Progress Test and Final Test will examine students' retention and comprehension of the general knowledge about Japan acquired during the course.

| Assessment items and workload per item |                       | %   | CLO(s)  | Due date    |
|--|-----------------------|-----|---------|-------------|
| 1                                      | Progress Test         | 25% | 1, 2, 3 | 20 August   |
| 2                                      | Journal (1,500 words) | 20% | 1, 2, 3 | 9 September |
| 3                                      | Essay ( 1,500 words)  | 25% | 1, 2, 3 | 1 October   |
| 4                                      | Final Test            | 30% | 1, 2, 3 | 15 October  |

### 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 a 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 4.30 pm 1 October 2013, JAPA Assignment slot, von Zedlitz Building Level 6 School office.

You must attach the specified cover sheet.

You must check all details and sign the cover sheet.

Submit any time before the deadline.

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

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

#### 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 9 September onwards.

You **must** submit before 11.59 p.m. (2359 hours) 1 October 2103.

### Reading 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 THREE entries of up to 500 words each. 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.

## Submission and return of work

Marking criteria will be distributed in class in advance of the assignment. Tidy presentation is essential. Work should be typed. Allow space for markers' corrections: leave a 4-centimetre margin and double space the type. Do not write in pencil.

All assignments must include a cover sheet available from the Course Materials section of Blackboard or from the School of Languages and Cultures (SLC) Office. Detailed guidelines for the presentation of assignments will be distributed with the assignment topics. Hard copies of assignments must be submitted, and are to be handed in to the Japanese Programme assignment slot. This is located to the left of the SLC office 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.

In addition, essays (but not Reading Journals) are required to be submitted also electronically via Blackboard for checking by Turnitin (see below).

In principle, assignments will be returned within three weeks of the deadline. Marked work will either be returned in class or be made available for collection from the SLC office. Please bring your student ID card with you when you come to collect your work.

## 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 an unforeseeable reason such as illness. While extensions will usually be granted on request, work that comes in after the original deadline may 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.

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.

## Set texts

There is no text book to be purchased for this course. Prescribed readings will be available on Blackboard.

## Class representative

A class representative will be elected in the first week, 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 reps will attend a meeting with the Head of School to discuss how the course is going and to raise any concerns or suggestions that they may have. You can find out more information on Class Representatives on the VUWSA website: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## Student feedback

Response to feedback for this course will be discussed in class or delivered via Blackboard. Student feedback on University courses may be found at [http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback\\_display.php](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php)

## Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism)
- Aegrotats: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat)
- Academic Progress: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress) (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates)
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: [www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin)
- Grades: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades)
- Resolving academic issues:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances)
- Special passes: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass)
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:  
[www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy)
- Student support: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service)
- Students with disabilities: [www.victoria.ac.nz/st\\_services/disability](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability)
- Student Charter: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter)
- Student Contract: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract)
- Turnitin: [www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin](http://www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin)
- University structure: [www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about)
- VUWSA: [www.vuwsa.org.nz](http://www.vuwsa.org.nz)

## Language Learning Centre (LLC)

The Language Learning Centre (LLC) is the Library's technology-rich, multimedia centre supporting language and culture learning. At the LLC you can practise and extend your language and culture learning.

You can:

- Find materials to support your language studies, including dictionaries, textbooks and graded readers.
- Study independently using language learning software, audio material and DVDs.
- Find a welcoming environment with services and events, and onsite assistance and support for languages
- Become a Language Buddy or find a conversation group.
- Notice of upcoming relevant movies

Visit the LLC on Level 0, von Zedlitz Building and take a look at our website [www.victoria.ac.nz/llc](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/llc).

## Course programme

### JAPA 113 TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF COURSE CONTENT 2013

| Week   | Commencing | Lecture (Tues 1.10-3pm)<br>Topics           | Tutorial (Thursdays)  |
|--|------------|---|---|
| 1  | 15 July    | Intro                                       | —   |
| 2  | 22 July    | Origins; Population                         | Reading: Varley "Culture"   |
| 3  | 29 July    | Shinto; Mythology                           | Journal Guidance<br>Essay Guidance  |
| 4  | 5 Aug      | Confucianism, Daoism                        | Reading: Ellwood "Kami"   |
| 5  | 12 Aug     | The Family                                  | Reading: Ronald & Alexy "Males in the Family"   |
| 6  | 19 Aug     | <b>Progress Test - Tues 20 Aug:<br/>25%</b> | Reading: MacWilliams "Buddha Manga"   |
| <b>Mid-Trimester Break 26 August to 8 September 2013</b> |            |   |   |
| 7  | 9 Sept     | Buddhism                                    | Reading: Reader "The Zen of Cleaning"<br><b>Journal due Mon 9 Sept 4.30pm: 20%</b>                                    |
| 8  | 16 Sept    | Festivals; Rites of Passage                 | Reading: Keene "Literature"   |
| 9  | 23 Sept    | Education                                   | Reading: Hendry "Life Cycle"  |
| 10   | 30 Sept    | Gift Exchange                               | Readings: Trias I Valls "Wrapped Gifts";<br>Hendry "Towels"<br><b>Researched Essay due Tues 1 Oct<br/>4.30pm: 25%</b> |
| 11   | 7 Oct      | Non-verbal communication                    | Reading: Miller "Bad Manners"<br><b>Revision</b>  |
| 12   | 14 Oct     | <b>Final Test - Tues 15 Oct:<br/>30%</b>    | To be advised   |