ENVS/JPN/EAS275
Nature and Culture in Japan.

Instructor: C A Crowley
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Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-12:45
Office: Modern Languages 209
Office hours: By appointment.
Place: Callaway C101
Tel. and text: (678) 632-1715
Course website: Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the rich history of the interaction between the human and the natural world in Japan. From haiku poetry to the whaling controversy, the austere spirituality of Zen gardens to the ongoing tragedy of the Tohoku 3.11 Disasters, the relationship between Japanese society, nature, and culture is fascinating and complex, and continues to have great impact on the world as a whole. Assignments for the course are drawn from key texts of Japanese cultural and scientific history, including maps, poetry, religious scriptures, visual materials, films and current magazine and newspaper articles.

GOALS OF THE COURSE:
By the end of the semester, students will acquire:

1. Knowledge of a broad range of issues related to the cultural constructions of nature in Japan

2. A sense of the complexity and richness of Japanese culture as it has developed through history

3. Practice in reading, thinking about discussing academic texts critically

4. Experience in presenting views about artistic, political, and sometimes controversial materials

5. Greater awareness of human interactions with the environment

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:
Midterm and Final exams: 20 percent each
Digital Archive Project: 15 percent
Quizzes: 20 percent
Journal: 15 percent
Participation: 10 percent
Exams: 10 objective questions, two or three essays. Note dates; EXAMS WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED.

Digital Archive Project: Create a three-minute digital story using materials from the Japan Disaster Digital Archive.

Quizzes: 6 in-class reading checks; you may drop one grade.

Journal: 2 entries per week, each entry about 250 words + optional images (more details on a separate handout). At least one entry per week should reference the current Virtual Field Trip. Your journal may be paper or digital.

Participation: Read all assignments and actively engage in class discussion.

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REQUIRED MATERIALS
All readings are available through Online Reserve or as handouts. Please print and bring to class. Electronic devices are not allowed in this class. Bring a notebook in which to keep class notes, readings and handouts.

Virtual Field Trips are accessible through Canvas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY


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<th>TOPIC AND READINGS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1/10</strong> Introduction to the Class</td>
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<td><strong>1/12</strong> Topic: Basics of Japanese culture and geography; thinking about the environment. Reading: Saito, &quot;The Japanese Appreciation of Nature&quot; and handouts</td>
<td>Virtual Field Trip 1: Looking at the Landscape</td>
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<td><strong>THEORETICAL ISSUES: EUROPEAN FRAMEWORKS</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1/19</strong> Topic: Historical thinking about nature, culture, self, and place in Europe &amp; North America Reading: White, &quot;The Historical Roots of Our Ecologic Crisis&quot;</td>
<td>Virtual Field Trip 2: Natural History Museums</td>
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<td><strong>1/24</strong> Topic: Historical thinking about nature, culture, self, and place, cont'd. Reading: Kuhn, &quot;Chapter 1. excerpt&quot; Gardner, &quot;Religious and Moral Approaches: Changing Values, Beliefs, and Worldviews&quot;</td>
<td>//QUIZ 1//</td>
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3   THEORETICAL ISSUES: JAPANESE FRAMEWORKS

1/26  Topic: Historical thinking about nature in Japan
      Reading: Kagawa-Fox, "Environmental Ethics from the
               Japanese Perspective;" Asquith and Kalland,
               "Japanese Perceptions of Nature"

1/31  Topic: Review and Reflection. In-class writing
      assignment.
      Reading: No new reading assignment

4   THE SCIENCES IN JAPAN

2/02  Topic: ways of organizing knowledge about the world
      in the premodern period
      Reading: Sugimoto and Swain, "Science in Japan's
               first cultural transformation / Chapter 1, part 1"
      Film Screening in Class

2/07  Topic: ways of organizing knowledge about the world
      in the premodern period (cont'd.)
      Reading: Sugimoto and Swain, "Science in Japan's
               first cultural transformation / Chapter 1, part 2"
      //QUIZ 2//

5   NATURE AND RELIGION

2/09  Topic: Indigenous Beliefs
      Reading: Tsunoda and DeBary, "Early Shintō;" Hori,
               "Mountains and their importance for the idea of the
               other world in Japanese folk religion"
2/14  Topic: Continental Philosophies  
Reading: Tsunoda and DeBar, "Kaibara Ekken"

2/16  Topic: Buddhism 1  
Reading: Kaza and Kraft, "The noble hare"; Tu-Shun, Myōe, Dōgen, "The nature of nature: the jewel net of Indra, Letter to the Island, Mountains and Waters Sutra."  
//QUIZ 3//

2/21  Topic: Buddhism 2  
Reading: LaFleur, "Enlightenment for plants and trees"; Snyder, "Blue Mountains Ceaselessly Walking"

2/23  Topic: Buddhism 3  
Reading: No new reading. Review, reflection.

2/28  MIDTERM  
Reading: No new reading

THE CULTURE OF NATURE: MA, WA, AND FUDO

3/02  Topic: Medieval Aesthetics  
Reading: Kenkō, "Essays in Idleness;" Pilgrim, "Intervals (Ma) in Space and Time"

3/07  Spring Break

3/09  Spring Break

3/14  Topic: Early Modern Sustainability

Virtual Field Trip 6: Temples

Virtual Field Trip 6: Gardens and Structures
**Reading**: Brown, Excerpts from *Just Enough: Japan for Sustainability. "Sustainability in Edo"

3/16  **Topic**: The National Landscape

  //QUIZ 4//

7  **THE CULTURE OF DISASTER**

3/23  **Topic**: Industrial Pollution
**Reading**: Ui

3/28  **Topic**: Fantasy about the nuclear bomb
**Evening Class**: Watch film *Gojira* (Godzilla) DVD 8339

3/30  **Topic**: Anxiety about the nuclear bomb
**Evening Class**: Watch film: *Chichi to kuraseba* (The Face of Jizo)

  //QUIZ 5//

4/06  **Topic**: 3.11
**View film in class**: "Pray for Japan" (NOTE: This film contains scenes of profound trauma that might be upsetting. Please let instructor know if you require a different assignment.)

Virtual Field Trip 7: Islands of Controversy

Virtual Field Trip 8: Minamata (*READ WARNING *!)

Virtual Field Trip 9: Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Virtual Field Trip 10: Film: "The Cove"
4/11  Topic: 3.11
In class discussion: Japan Disaster Digital Archive
Plan project

4/13  Topic: 3.11
View film in class: "Inside Japan's Nuclear Meltdown"
(NOTE: This film contains scenes of profound trauma that might be upsetting. Please let instructor know if you require a different assignment.)

4/18  Topic: 3.11
Discussion and review.
//QUIZ 6//

4/20  Topic: Conclusion
Presentations of digital storytelling projects

5/1  FINAL EXAM 8:00 A.M - 10:30 A.M