

## Master Syllabus

### RST 2610: REGIONAL STUDIES: JAPAN Wright Core & Integrated Writing Course

**Instructor**  
**Office:**  
**Phone:**

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#### Course Description

Regional Studies: Japan examines Japan utilizing an interdisciplinary approach that places special emphasis on geography. Students will learn how political institutions, population growth and change, economic activities, natural resources and cultural values and traditions are intertwined forces affecting local and national development and the quality of social life. Topics cover various eras of Japan's development beginning with the Tokugawa regime, extending through the Samurai Revolution which launched the Modern Era of Japan, and concludes with Japan's recovery as a global economic power in the post-World War II era. Students will learn how culture has shaped Japan's social, political and economic structures and how Japanese culture impacts the USA and other nations. Students will research and write an analytical paper that focuses on one element of Japanese culture that describes and then compares and contrasts the development of this cultural aspect across historical eras.

#### I. College/ Department

College of Liberal Arts  
Urban Affairs & Geography

#### II. Course Information

Course Title: Regional Studies: Japan  
Course Abbreviation/Number: RST 2610  
Course Credit Hours: 3  
Course Cross Listing: None

Check (x) all applicable:

General Education Course ;  
Service Learning Course ; Integrated Writing Course ;  
Ohio Transfer Assurance Guide Course ; Laboratory Course ;  
Ohio Transfer Module Course ; Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_.

#### III. Course Registration

Prerequisites: None  
Co-requisites: None  
Restrictions: including junior standing, majors, etc: None  
Other: including, e.g. "or by permission of instructor": None

#### IV. Student Learning Outcomes

<b>3. Global Traditions</b>  <i>Historical analysis and global perspectives necessary to understand our diverse world</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Critically describe some of the political, social or economic systems; historical, cultural or spiritual traditions; and/or technological innovations around the world</li><li>b. Demonstrate an awareness of the diversity of people or traditions in our world in ways that promote effective engagement, both locally and globally</li><li>c. Use political, social, economic, historical, cultural, spiritual or technological knowledge to evaluate contemporary issues</li></ol>
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**If the course is proposed for Element 3, how does it meet all of the above learning outcomes?**

- a) Use of cultural geography principles to understand the development of Japanese culture;
- b) Connect the threads of culture across historical eras and through the development of Japan's social, political and economic institutions.
- c) Understand how culture and natural environment interrelate and provide a foundation for evolving national social values (such as technological values), ethics and norms;
- d) Develop awareness of cultural diversity within Japan and the constant cultural interaction between Japan and other nations.
- e) Foster understanding of globalization and the impact that a swifter flow of information, capital, people, ideas and technology have on Japan and the impact Japan has on the global society.

#### V. Suggested Course Materials (required and recommended)

##### Textbooks and articles required:

The Cambridge Companion to Modern Japanese Culture. Edited by Yoshio Sugimoto. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Lectures will provide students with Japanese history, geographical information, and additional details such as development of Japan's economic policies and its focus on advanced technologies through the creation of the technopolis.

#### VI. Suggested Method of Instruction

Lecture

#### VII. Suggested Evaluation and Policy

Evaluation Student Performance:

- a) Exams 40%. Two examinations will be given during the semester; a mid-term exam and final exam. The examination instruments will include multiple choice, matching, fill-in and short essay questions.
- b) Geospatial Quizzes 15%. Three geospatial quizzes will be given on maps provided by the instructor. The quizzes measure student understanding of spatial data and spatial formulas.
- c) Chapter Summaries/Response Papers 15%. Summary/Response Papers are 250 word written assignments. Topics will be provided by the instructor. Topics will vary such as describing the diversity of language, family culture, work culture, political culture and so on. Information for the papers will be drawn from the text and other materials provided by the instructor. Students will receive feedback on their response papers which they can incorporate in subsequent writing assignments.
- d) Research Paper 30%. Students will be asked to go beyond the text and course material and research a single aspect of Japanese culture that may interest them. The research papers will use quantitative and qualitative information from at least three academic journal sources. The research paper will compare and contrast the cultural element across two eras, e.g. from Modern Japan to Post-World War II Japan. The paper will be properly cited and be at least 1,250 words in length.

#### Integrated Writing Policy

Writing counts toward the course grade. Students will write approximately 2,000 words during the semester. Students will be expected to produce writing that:

- Demonstrates their understanding of topic;
- Fits purpose of the writing assignment, e.g. description and analysis;
- Demonstrates the degree of mastery of writing conventions appropriate to the course (including documentation conventions); and
- Shows competency in standard edited American English.

Written assignments will be evaluated using criteria that vary according to the purpose of the assignment. In general, writing assignments are evaluated for:

1. Quality and correctness;
2. Organization of information, data, concepts and theories;
3. Grammar and writing mechanics; and
4. Appropriate writing style.

#### Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes throughout the quarter. Attendance also encompasses arriving to class on time and remaining in class until dismissal.

Academic Dishonesty Policy

All students and faculty bear responsibility for achieving academic excellence. Academic dishonesty impedes this goal. Therefore, academic dishonesty cannot be tolerated and all must act to prevent and control it.

The *Wright State University Student Handbook* spells out what actions define academic dishonesty, including plagiarism. According to Robert Harris in *Using Sources Effectively* (2005), “if the information came from outside of your own head, cite the source” (p. 16). The *Handbook* also details procedures for holding students accountable for their actions, specific penalties for academic dishonesty and what can be done to prevent dishonesty.

**A. Suggested Grading Policy**

At the end of the quarter, a student’s grade will be based on the total points accumulated out of a possible 300 points. The following is a list of exams, quizzes, papers and summaries, with the corresponding point total for each item:

Mid-Term Exam	0 points
Final Exam	100 points
Map Quiz 1	20 points
Map Quiz 2	20 points
Map Quiz 3	20 points
Summary 1 (IW)	20 points*
Summary 2 (IW)	20 points*
Summary 3 (IW)	20 points*
Topical Research Paper (IW)	<u>120 points*</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>400 points</b>

\*The papers will total approximately 2,000 words.

Grades will be determined (based on total points received) using the following scale:

270 – 300 points	= 90 – 100%	= A
240 – 269 points	= 80 – 89.9%	= B
210 – 239 points	= 70 – 79.9%	= C
180 – 209 points	= 60 – 69.9%	= D
000 – 179 points	= less than 60%	= F

**B. Suggested Assignments and Course Outline**

Course Outline:

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Chapter (Pages)</u>
Week 1	Introduction: Japan’s Eras and	Syllabus, Handout

	Spatial Factors	Handout
Week 2	Japan's Culture: An Overview Concepts of Japan	Sugimoto, 1-20 Befu, pp. 21-37
Week 3	Linguistic and Behavioral Structure Geo-spatial Japan	Kuwayama, pp. 38-55
Week 4	Summary #1 Language and Japan's Eras Geo-spatial Japan	Clarke, pp. 56-75
Week 5	Map Quiz #1 Family Culture and Japan's Eras	Imamura, pp. 76-91
Week 6	Summary # 2 School Culture	Okano, pp. 92-112
Week 7	Work/Technological Culture Japan's Eras	Mouer/Low, pp. 113-146
Week 8	Mid-Term Exam Religious Culture Japan's Eras	Covell, pp. 147-165
Week 9	Political/Baruku Culture Japan's Eras Geo-spatial Japan	Inoguchi/Aoki, pp. 166-198
Week 10	Summary #2 Map Quiz #2 Arts Culture Japan's Eras	Ellis/Linhart/Norris, Kitagawa, pp. 199-280
Week 11	Housing Culture Japan's Eras Geo-spatial Japan	Waswo, pp. 281-299
Week 12	Summary #3 Map Quiz #3 Food/Sport Culture Japan's Eras	Ishige/Koishihara, pp. 300-335
Week 13	Globalization and Japan's Culture	Inoguchi, pp. 336-351 Handouts
Week 14	Exporting and Importing Japan's Culture	Mouer/Norris, pp. 352-368 Handouts

Finals Week Final Exam  
Research Paper is due