

EASC 360 Global East Asia: Japan-Kyoto Maymester

Kyoto: Heritage, Culture, and Identity in Japan's Ancient Capital

Location: USC, Kyoto, and surrounding areas

Course Dates: May 19, 2023 – June 15, 2023

Travel Dates: June 3, 2023 – June 15, 2023

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The city of Kyoto functioned as the capital of Japan for roughly 1000 years. Over the centuries between 794 CE, when it was founded, and 1868, when the capital was relocated to Tokyo, Kyoto suffered many calamities, both natural and man-made, resulting in extensive damage to its prominent temples, shrines, and palaces. Yet overall Kyoto is remarkably well preserved, chiefly because it is one of the few major cities in Japan not affected by the bombing campaigns of World War II. Many of its ancient and medieval buildings, artwork, and artifacts have survived and remain accessible to this day. As such, the city of Kyoto is a place of immense historical significance and, indeed, incomparable beauty. This course aims to introduce the city of Kyoto via the history, religion, literature, architecture, and aristocratic milieu of the Heian period (794-1185). In preparation for our trip to Japan, the studies we undertake in Los Angeles will entail examinations of 1) Heian-period “primary sources” (tales, diaries, sermons, essays and the like, all in translation), 2) contemporary scholarly work on the history of Kyoto, 3) photo essays of important sites, and 4) film. Once settled in Kyoto we will take full advantage of what the city has to offer. Our daily itineraries will include site visits, guest lectures, experiential learning, and discussions. As students’ knowledge of Kyoto’s past and familiarity with the contemporary city deepens, we will be able to address together questions that fuse history with the present moment: In what way does Heian culture inform the self-identity of present-day native Kyoto-ites? How do Kyoto natives differentiate themselves from natives of Osaka, Tokyo, or other parts of Japan? In the context of global tourism marketing, what is the difference between using Kyoto and Tokyo as the “symbol” of Japan?

Course format in Los Angeles

The LA segment of the course is an intensive, two-week exposure to Kyoto’s rich history. Though the instructor will provide regular mini-lectures on historical and social contexts, a significant portion of our class time will be devoted to student-centered discussion. Participants thus will have opportunity to explore topics relating to Kyoto’s premodern culture while also sharpening their skills of rhetorical analysis, verbal presentation, and impromptu debate. With those course goals in mind, it is imperative that students come to each class meeting having read the assignment thoroughly. As our departure date draws near, students will be asked to articulate an area of interest for a research project to be carried out in Japan, either individually or with a partner. (Research project formats are explained in more detail below.) Around this time the instructor will provide basic guidance about the layout of the city and its public transportation systems, etiquette to be observed at religious and other sites we will visit, and handy Japanese phrases.

Course format in Kyoto

We will have two weeks together in Kyoto. During the first week we will meet from 8:30am to 1:30pm, and our chief purpose will be to experience the splendors of Kyoto. Site lectures will be

given either by the instructor or a guest speaker. In some cases, a site visit will entail an experiential element such as tea ceremony, calligraphy, or the sampling of traditional foods. During this busy week students also are encouraged to refine their research projects in consultation with the instructor. There will be some short reading assignments but mostly students will be encouraged to read materials related to their research themes. The second week will entail a day-long excursion to Ōtsu (about a fifteen-minute train ride from Kyoto) but on the whole will mark a slight tapering off of the prior week's intensive site visit schedule in favor of independent exploration and research.

Tentative schedule

May 19 *First Day of Class*
 May 29 *MEMORIAL DAY (no class held)*
 June 2 *Prepare for Departure (no class held)*
 June 3 *Depart for Japan*
 June 4 *Arrive in Japan | Take bus to lodging*
 June 15 *Finish research project/Farewell Dinner*
 June 16 *Departure from Japan*

Tentative Site Visits

Chionji
 Fushimi Inari Shrine
 Heian Jingu
 Kinkakuji
 Kyoto National Museum
 Kyoto University
 Museum of Kyoto
 Nanzenji
 Nijō Castle
 Nishiki Market
 Ōtsu
 Ryōanji

Readings

Sonja Arntzen and Itō Moriyuki (trans.), *The Sarashina Diary: A Woman's Life in Eleventh-Century Japan*, Columbia University Press, 2014 (pdf).

Patricia Graham, *Tea of the Sages: The Art of Sencha*, University of Hawai'i Press, 1998 (pdf).

Jane Hirshfield with Mariko Aratani (trans.), *The Ink Dark Moon: Love Poems by Ono no Komachi and Izumi Shikibu, Women of the Ancient Court of Japan*, Vintage Classics, 1990 (pdf).

Helen McCullough, *Tales of Ise: Lyrical Episodes from Tenth-Century Japan*, Stanford, 1968 (pdf).

Ivan Morris (trans.), *The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon*, Columbia University Press, 2018 (pdf).

Smyers, Karen. *The Fox and Jewel: Shared and Private Meanings in Contemporary Inari Worship*. University of Hawai'i Press, 1998 (pdf).

Matthew Stavros, *Kyoto: An Urban History of Japan's Premodern Capital*, University of Hawai'i Press, 2014 (pdf).

Alice Y. Tseng, *Modern Kyoto: Building for Ceremony and Commemoration, 1868-1940*, Hawai 'i University Press, 2018 (pdf).

Royall Tyler (trans.), *Japanese Tales*, Pantheon, 1987. **(Please purchase this book!)**

Research project

The research project may be carried out individually or by a team of two. It can take many forms. The instructor is receptive to a broad range of humanities based projects, spanning history, religion, literature, architecture, art history, and urban development. Projects will be formulated in such a way to combine conventional research with experiential learning.

Examples:

A study of Heian aristocratic women's clothing that synthesizes analyses of primary source readings with the textile exhibit at the Museum of Kyoto.

A consideration of the philosophy and function of Zen temple gardens.

A study of *setsuwa* short stories and sermons related to a particular Kyoto temple, such as Kiyomizudera.

An investigation of the historical development of Kyoto districts and wards.

Another research trajectory students might consider is to interview Kyoto natives of different ages about what Kyoto's rich historical legacy means to them. How is awareness of Kyoto's past used to differentiate themselves from other Japanese? Does living among the sites and treasures from previous centuries impede Kyoto from becoming a "modern" Japanese city?

Blog contribution

During the course, students will make one contribution to the course blog. The blog can take as its topic any of our course events or activities, but it also should include remarks on how a student's research project has evolved. The length of a contribution and the specific blog schedule will be explained in class.

Evaluation

A student's final grade will be calculated as follows:

LA attendance and participation	10%
LA based quizzes on readings	15%
LA midterm	20%
Research prospectus	10%
Kyoto attendance and participation	10%
Kyoto blog contribution	5%
Kyoto research progress update	10%
Kyoto final research project	20%

ACADEMIC CONDUCT

Plagiarism – presenting someone else's ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in *SCampus* in Part B, Section 11, "Behavior Violating University

Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in *SCampus* and university policies on scientific misconduct, <http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct>.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline – 1 (800) 273-8255

Provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center

For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086

Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class.

equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support

Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs

Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations.

dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710

Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC

Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information

Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000

24-hour emergency or to report a crime

Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu