

Comparative Studies of Cultures			
Registration code	0065411	Credits	2.0
Course Category	Arts Basic	Classroom	C34
Term(Semester)/Day/Period	I (First Year, First Semester) / Fri / 4 (14:45~16:15)		
Instructor	MCGEE Dylan Patrick		
Contact	Office: Room 616, Integrated Research Building for Humanities and Social Sciences Phone: 052-789-4851 (office number) Email: mcgee@lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp		
Office hours:	Wednesdays 3:00-6:00 pm Fridays 3:00-6:00 pm *Email or call me for appointments outside office hours.		
Target Schools (Programs)	Le(J) · La(S) · Ec(S) · Sc(P · C · B) · En(P · C · Au) · Ag(B)		
<p>● Aim of the course This course is designed to introduce students to basic theories, methods, and applications of comparative cultural studies. Our focus in this course will be on the historical development of Japanese premodern culture vis-à-vis the influences of China, Korea, India and the West. Working within this comparative context, students will be encouraged to think critically about the various ways in which Japan has inflected the influences of Buddhism, Confucianism, Chinese written language, and technologies of cultural production as it has developed its own distinctive cultural traditions. Through group discussion and written exercises, students will be given opportunities to develop analytic reasoning, communication, and basic academic writing skills. All readings and viewings for this course will be in English translation. No proficiency in Japanese or previous background in the humanities is required.</p> <p>● Course Prerequisites None</p> <p>● Course Content (*subject to revision) Week 1: Japanese Writing Systems Week 2-3: Japanese Court Culture in Comparative Context Week 4-5: Buddhism in Medieval Japan Week 6: Japan's Christian Century Week 7: Neo-Confucianism and the Philosophical Bases of Bushidō Week 8-9: Early Modern Japanese Warrior Culture Week 10: The Rise of Print in Japan Week 11-12: Early Modern Japanese Literature in Comparative Context Week 13: Early Modern Japanese Visual Art in Comparative Context Week 14: Early Japanese Embassies to the West Week 15: Modern Japanese Culture in Comparative Context</p> <p>● Course Evaluation Methods The final grade for the course will be determined according to five categories of assessment. Participation (25%) will be assessed on perceived mastery of the course material, as demonstrated in class discussions and in-class exercises. Quizzes (25%) based on readings and material covered in class will be administered six times over the course of the semester, as indicated on the schedule. Of these six, the top five quiz grades will be calculated towards the final quiz grade. Students will have the first ten minutes of class to work on quizzes; students who arrive ten or more minutes late to class will forfeit their grade for that quiz. There will be no make-up quizzes. The Final Exam (30%), to be held on the final day of class, will be comprised of ten questions, to be chosen from a pool of twelve. A study guide for the exam will be posted in January. Lastly, students will compose a brief Final Essay (20%), roughly 1500-1750 words in length, based on a topic related to the course material. Paper topics and the assignment description will be posted mid-semester; essays will be due in hard copy on the final day of class.</p>			

●Notice for Students

Thank you for your interest in the course. While every effort will be made to accommodate all students interested in enrolling, please note that because this course is not eligible for a teaching assistant, I will need to cap enrollment at no more than 50 students. Late enrollments will be given seats on a first come, first served basis. In the event that more than 50 students are interested in enrolling, I will keep a waiting list and notify students of any open seats during the first three weeks of the semester. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Textbook	No required textbook for purchase. Readings will be made available on the first day of class.
Reference Book	Listed on the final version of the syllabus (distributed on the first day of class)