

Japan Today: Toward a Sustainable Society

JAPN 3693

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■ **This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Humanities area.**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance, and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical Reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence

■ **Course Description:**

This course aims to help students explore current socio-cultural-economic issues **focusing on the sustainability practices based on UN's Sustainability Goals** in present-day Japan and develop cultural awareness and sensitivity that will promote understanding of potential difficulties in intercultural communication. This is a community-driven course focused on teaching students how to think about issues of sustainability in Japan. Students will discuss topics related to the environmental and societal sustainability issues and practices in Japan, which includes food loss issues, geothermal energy, biomass, garbage disposal, local production for local consumption goals, recycling, and upcycling practices, gender equality practices, etc.

■ **Course Objectives:**

- (1) To understand the intricate relationship between language and society/culture
- (2) To explore issues related to sustainability in Japan
- (3) To develop an open-minded attitude towards cultural differences
- (4) To experience everyday Japanese life with a host family (farm stay)
- (5) To experience traditional Japanese culture such as tea ceremony and zazen (Zen style meditation) etc. and become more aware of the roles traditions play in contemporary Japanese society
- (6) To learn basic data collection techniques to conduct research using Japanese language
- (7) To improve presentation and writing skills in Japanese

ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #1: PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION	
ML Learning Outcome 1 : Demonstrate oral and aural proficiency in the target language	JAPN 3693: Students will participate in informal discussion on select topics with Japanese students in Japanese. In addition, students who choose to conduct their survey by interviewing will demonstrate oral and aural proficiency by interviewing local people in Japanese for their survey.
ML Learning Outcome 2: Demonstrate effective presentation skills in the target language	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their skills by making a 15-minute presentation on the survey result in Japanese.
ML Learning Outcome 3: Demonstrate writing proficiency in the target language	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their proficiency by writing short reflection essays on the topic related to sustainability in Japan, using expository writing style in Japanese. Students who choose to conduct their survey using questionnaires will demonstrate writing proficiency by creating a survey form in Japanese.
ML Learning Outcome 4: Demonstrate proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in the target Language	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their proficiency in comprehension of authentic written texts in Japanese by doing reading assignments for class meetings. Students will demonstrate reading proficiency by compiling data from the responses to the questionnaires or interviews.
ML PERFORMANCE GOAL #2: INTERCULTURAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE	
ML Learning Outcome 5: Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of a <i>specific</i> target-language country or region	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their knowledge of an aspect of Japanese culture by compiling data from their observation and experience in Japan and writing short essays in Japanese. In addition, they will investigate a specific area of sustainability in Japan and present their findings to their classmates.

ML Learning Outcome 6: Demonstrate the ability to analyze an issue from target-culture perspective(s)	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their ability to analyze the issue from Japanese perspective during class discussions and in their reflection essays.
ML Learning Outcome 7: Demonstrate critical reflection on cultural complexity and context	JAPN 3693: Students will demonstrate their reflection on cultural complexity and context by taking into consideration various factors which influence Japanese behavior under discussion.

■ **Teaching Materials:** Materials to be distributed by instructors.

■ **The course consists of the following components:**

Components	Content	Requirements	% in final grade (*subject to change)
Group research In Japanese (including the preparation HW)	Research and presentation on issues related to sustainability in Japan	Interview or questionnaire research and presentation in Japanese	25%*
Vocabulary test	Short vocabulary tests	Read kanji and understand the important words used in class.	10%
Reflection Homework	Reaction papers in response to activities and lectures, including analyses of Japanese culture and sustainability based on observations, personal experiences and external resources (i.e. readings)	The analyses should describe what influenced your perspective of Japanese culture , your final conclusion, and clear support (e.g., examples) to explain your reasoning. The paper should be around 400 characters and written in だ・である-style.	20%
Reading Homework	Complete Japanese readings on various sustainability-related topics in Japan.	Complete accompanying comprehension questions and be prepared to discuss readings in class.	20%
Mini group Presentation and Discussion Moderator	Each group will present the actual practice/solution/issue found in Japan for one of the SDGs goals of their choice and prepare discussion questions for the class discussion. The group will	Conduct extensive research to obtain general knowledge, current practices and issue pertaining to the SDGs goal of your choice. Construct the presentation to explain them to the class. Plan and moderate the class discussion over your presentation topic.	10%*

	facilitate/moderate the discussion as well		
Attendance and active participation in classroom activities	Discussion with classmates and/or APU students about Japanese and American cultures	Attending every class session and <u>actively participating</u> in classroom activities by <u>using Japanese only</u>	15%*

■Class Policy:

In JAPN3693 you are expected to

- Attend every class meeting and **actively participate** in all class activities (group-work, leading discussions, etc.). Active participation includes actively talking with classmates about the topics related to the lesson, raising your hand to answer questions, volunteering to share your experiences or thoughts, summarizing what you read or talked about with classmates, and other types of active expressions to indicate engagement with the course.
 - 100% credit – full attendance and participation
 - 75% credit – Tardy/Early exit and/or low participation
 - 0% credit – Tardy/Early exit (more than 30 minutes) and/or poor participation
- Complete all homework assignments and submit them in class **on time**. You must show that you put significant effort into homework assignments in order to receive a high grade.

If you engage in activities which indicate your **inattention or non-participation** in our classroom activities (e.g. coming to class late, falling asleep, chatting with your classmate(s), text-messaging with your friend(s), doing homework, reading newspapers and/or (text)books, checking email or viewing Web sites, etc.), your attendance score will be reduced.

No late homework will be accepted, and no make-up test will be given for absences without prior notification and proper documentation for most cases. If you are in a situation that you cannot attend class, please consult the instructor.

■Cheating, Copying Homework, & Plagiarism

Wherever the LBAT Japan program takes place, **you are still under the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. Cheating on any tests and exams will not be tolerated at all** and the Dean's Office will be notified of the offender(s). The submission of material that is wholly or substantially identical to work created by another person or persons, without adequate credit notations constitutes an act of plagiarism and will not be tolerated. **Copying any part of your classmate's homework assignment or letting others copy yours will be also regarded as a violation of the honor code. In addition, you are NOT allowed to use Google translate or other translation applications on Internet. You must limit your usage of online dictionaries for only looking up the words or phrases.** If you are not familiar with the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code, you should go to <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18b.php> and familiarize yourself with it prior to taking this course.

■ Useful Link

- **Modern Languages website** <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/languages/japanese>
- **Information on Japanese minor** <http://catalog.gatech.edu/programs/minor-japanese/#requirementstext>
- **Language for Business and Technology Programs in Japan** <https://modlangs.gatech.edu/lbat/japan>