

# HUM 1020: Introduction to Humanities in Japan 2025

Course Dates: May 5– June 13, 2025

Travel Dates: May 13-23, 2025

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Kristine Whaley, [whaley.kristine@spcollege.edu](mailto:whaley.kristine@spcollege.edu), Gibbs Campus HS 125

**ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT:** Fine Arts and Humanities; Dean Dr. Barbara Hubbard, Clearwater Campus CR 154-C

**COURSE PREFIX AND NUMBER: HUM 1020**

**COURSE NAME: Introduction to Humanities in Japan**

Students will be educated about Japanese History, the unique Japanese Worldview, customs, practices, religion, philosophy, sacred spaces (visual arts/architecture), literature, and the performing arts in comparison with the Western (inherited Greco-Roman, Judeo-Christian) worldview and culture. Great emphasis will be placed on an immersive, compare/contrast experience while on site in Japan.

## Study Abroad Qualifications

Approval for participation in the program is subject to the following. Each participant must:

- Be a college student with a high school diploma, to participate in a traditional Study Abroad program or be registered as **dual enrolled (\*)** to participate in a high school Study Abroad program.
- Be in good academic standing at the time of application (cannot be on academic warning, probation or suspension).
- Be enrolled for credit in an approved Study Abroad program course.
- Meet with an academic advisor to
  - Ensure any or all prerequisites needed to enroll in the course have been met
  - To complete a My Learning Plan
- Submit all required forms and documentation
- Interview with and be approved by program's lead faculty member.
- Be approved by the Center for International Programs.

## MEETING INFORMATION/ATTENDANCE POLICY:

**IMPORTANT:** Refer to College policy (Revised October 2006) on class attendance 6Hx23-4.30 i.e., Attendance: You are subject to being dropped if you accumulate more than TWO unexcused absences during the term since this is a condensed Study Abroad class during Summer term.  
Absence: It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of ANY absence. **(NOTE: Taking attendance is extremely important for veterans and international students. It is important to refer to**

**College policy (Revised October 2006) on class attendance, Rule 6Hx23-4.30,**  
[http://www.spcollege.edu/central/botrules/R4/4\\_30.doc](http://www.spcollege.edu/central/botrules/R4/4_30.doc) )  
(Lab safety/health procedures if applicable)

The program plan for this class (class meetings and activities, etc.) meets or exceeds the requirement of 47 contact hours for the course.

## **COURSE CONTENT:**

This course introduces students to a range of ideas and themes in the humanities from a global perspective through an exploration of different aesthetic approaches across a variety of disciplines in the humanities. Students will explore primary source examples from the visual, performing, and literary arts by describing and analyzing the relationship between form and content and by investigating their social, historical, and cultural contexts to determine their meaning and significance. Topics will include examples from authors, artists, and other creators from a diverse selection of cultures, races, religions, and genders. Areas of study may include, but are not limited to, visual art, music, literature, dance, theater, and film. This course satisfies the Enhanced World View requirement.

### **Learning Outcomes and Objectives:**

1. The student will be able to define and describe the humanities by:
  - a. applying basic vocabulary for concepts used within the disciplines.
  - b. distinguishing the similarities and differences among the performing, visual, and literary arts.
  - c. outlining the purposes and functions of creative works as they change over time.
2. The student will be able to distinguish between a variety of aesthetic theories by:
  - a. defining and describing “aesthetics” as it relates to the humanities.
  - b. differentiating between the major aesthetic theories (i.e., representation, expressionist, formalist, etc.).
  - c. comparing and contrasting mediums and techniques (i.e., prose, painting, film, dance, etc.) used in creative expression.
3. The student will be able to analyze how diverse examples of creative expression communicate aspects of the human condition by:
  - a. describing the fundamental concerns of creative works studied in the humanities.
  - b. explaining the relationship between “form” and “content.”
  - c. comparing and contrasting formal and contextual criticism.
  - d. compiling and examining secondary source material.
4. The student will be able to apply critical analysis skills to evaluate how meaning is created in diverse creative works in the humanities by:
  - a. identifying a work’s formal qualities.
  - b. analyzing a work’s expressive content.
  - c. interpreting how a work’s social, historical, and political context informs its meaning and purpose.
  - d. communicating clearly and convincingly through writing how examples of creative expressions convey ideas about the human experience.

### Japan:

Introduction to Humanities (HUM 1020) offers the chance for students to have brief looks at the nature of the various fields within the humanities, but this class will allow a closer, more in depth look at this study so that the students can then apply that look to other areas. By focusing on the religious foundation of Japan, we will examine the history, art, architecture, and current culture of Japan while traveling. Once home, we will take those lessons to apply to other cultures around the world. Japan's unique relationship with its indigenous religion allows this to be a particularly important way to look at the connection between these fields.

This eleven-day program will travel from the cities of Osaka, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Hakone, Atami, and Tokyo. Each place has a rich history exploring the intricate link between religion and culture, which we will fully explore with the textbook (*Shinto: The Kami Way*), and then through online resources once home we will compare this to Christianity in Europe, Hinduism in India, and indigenous religions in America.

### PREREQUISITES (IF APPLICABLE):

Prerequisite: Dev Level 2 Writing Met or appropriate score on the college placement test.

### GRADING:

Students will be graded by a percentage-based gradebook. I will consider rounding up at .5% on borderline grades.

100%-89.5%=A

89.4%-79.5%=B

79.4%-69.5%=C

69.4%-59.5%=D

59.4%-0=F

### ACADEMIC HONESTY:

St. Petersburg College has an Academic Honesty policy. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the policies, rules, and the consequences of violations. Read about the policy at: <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>. There is no tolerance for cheating and academic dishonesty. Discipline can range from a zero on that specific assignment to expulsion from the class with a grade of F. Note that copy/pasting published information, whether it's from your textbook or the Internet, without citing your source is plagiarism and violates this policy. Even if you change the words slightly,

the ideas are someone else's, so you still have to cite your sources. Cheating, plagiarism, bribery, misrepresentation, conspiracy and fabrication are defined in Rule 6Hx23-4.461, Student Affairs: Academic Honesty Guidelines, Classroom Behavior.

### TEXTBOOK INFORMATION:

*Shinto: The Kami Way*, Sokoyo Ono

### ASSIGNMENTS:

**Travel Journal (50% of your final grade):** During the program, you will keep a journal. You must have an entry for each of the days (excluding travel days to/from Tampa) detailing highlights of the day. Each day should also note one aspect of Japanese religion or culture that was particularly impactful that day, one question about Japanese religion or culture that arose during the day, and one way you recognize Western influence from that day. This journal will be turned in after the conclusion of the program but will be returned to the student at the end of the course (it will make a great keepsake!).

**Behavior/Respect (20% of final grade):** Japan has a long tradition of cultural respect and proper behavior, which we will be taking part in. This is a travel course, and so students will be representing SPC in the country, and therefore need to do so with professionalism and respect. While we aim to enjoy the journey, it is important that students are aligned with not only SPC expectations, but a desire to demonstrate respect and appreciation for the culture we are immersing ourselves in.

**Identifying Eastern Art Influences and Meanings (30% of final grade):** Before and during the program, students will engage in class discussions based on the required reading for the class with the professor and students. You will be evaluated on your knowledge of the textbook subject matter and your level of participation in the discussion (must participate at least twice). These discussions will focus on identifying various art (literature, visual art, music, dance, theater) in Japanese culture. The discussion will highlight the various influences for the art, the meaning behind the art, and any ways that art has influenced Western art.

### TIPS FOR SUCCESS:

Pay very close attention to the provided PDFs which deal with issues of social customs/etiquette.

Try to learn some Japanese prior to departure

Remember that respect and social status is a huge part of Japanese culture

(Other tips to be decided at later date)

### **ITEMS TO PACK:**

Passport

Possibly a rain poncho, as the rainy season *can* start in early June, though this is usually mid to later June/July

Comfortable Walking Shoes

11 days worth of clothes, socks, under-garments

Pens/Pencils

Journal

### **STUDENT CONDUCT / ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY:**

Please refer to important information about student conduct and related policies in your study abroad application package.

### **EMERGENCIES/HEALTH & SAFETY:**

Please refer to important information in pre-departure orientation materials.

### **LINK TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADVISORY FOR STUDY ABROAD DESTINATION(S):**

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Japan.html>

This information is subject to change; please check this source again as departure time nears.

## **SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS:**

If you anticipate requesting the Learning Specialist an accommodation for a **documented** disability, it is important to notify the International Programs office as soon as possible that you plan to make a request. Please also make an appointment with the Learning Specialist on campus to make your request as soon as possible. The Learning Specialist can be reached at 791-2628 or 791-2710 (CL), 341-4758 (SP/G), 394-6108 (SE), 712-5789 (TS), or 341-4532 (AC).

### **Requirement 1f**

#### **Description of cultural immersion activities and additional excursions**

Describe activities and excursions in detail.

### **Requirement 1g**

#### **Suggested safety precautions and arrangements.**

The lead faculty member on the program will carry emergency safety supplies appropriate for the environment and first aid care.

In addition, specifics regarding safety in an unfamiliar environment are covered in participant orientation, including the Study Abroad Emergency Card. This card covers knowing where to go in emergencies (how to get there, transportation options), emergency contact information (home and local) and contact numbers (local 911 equivalent, embassy, police, hospital, etc.), back-up plans, special conditions, emergency kits, and cash reserves and alternatives. Closer to the time of travel, current safety conditions can be obtained from the State Department via the Internet. All participants are required to carry international health insurance that covers \$100,000 accident/sickness coverage, including evacuation and repatriation of remains that will be included in your program fees.