

HUM 2270: East/West Synthesis in Japan 2025

Course Dates: May 5– June 13, 2025

Travel Dates: May 13-23, 2025

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kristine Whaley, 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 2270

COURSE NAME: East/West Synthesis 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)

(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 is a study of non-Western cultures, including the Middle East, Asia, and Africa. Emphasis is placed on acquiring knowledge of non-Western arts, values, and ideas relative to Western culture and developing an awareness of a world community. This course partially satisfies the writing requirements outlined in the General Education Requirements. (Credit is only given for both HUM 2270 or HUM 2270H.)

Learning Outcomes and Objectives:

The student will demonstrate the knowledge of the styles and aesthetic elements of selected non-Western cultures as expressed through their visual arts, literature, philosophy, and music by:

comparing and contrasting the cultural and intellectual aspects of each culture's major historical periods.

identifying examples of arts, literature, and music of the non-Western cultures.

2. The student will understand the relationships and contrasts among different non-Western cultural ideas and arts by:

3. recalling the primary cultural and intellectual aspects of each culture.

4. comparing and contrasting the cultural and intellectual aspects of each culture.

5. recognizing the similarities and differences between Western and non-Western cultural values.

6. The student will develop the ability to apply understanding of the humanities as it relates to cultural activities in the community by:

attending or visiting and constructing a critical report on some aspect of non-Western art either presented as live performance or on exhibit in the student's local community.

recognizing, by using insights gained in the course, the techniques and skills used by non-Western artists whose performance and/or work the student has experienced.

4. The student will broaden his/her understanding of non-Western philosophical concepts of self, society, nature and religion as expressed in selected non-Western cultures by:

5. discovering the origins of many present-day non-Western values

6. explaining non-Western approaches on the basis of morality, effectiveness, and universality

7. The student will demonstrate ability in composition by:

8. writing critical reports of cultural activities

9. using secondary sources to analyze the historical, religious, philosophical, and/or artistic influences on various works of art.

Japan:

East/West Synthesis (HUM 2270) 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.

East/West Dialogues (30% of your 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 comparing and contrasting the unique Japanese worldview with other worldviews that we're learning about in the class (Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, etc).

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 trip 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.