

Course Number	Course Title An Introduction to Japanese Culture I 日本文化入門 I	Credits 2	Instructor (s) Yu Ming Hwang
Keywords	Japanese Culture		
Course Description (including Goal and Objectives)	This course utilizes local resources in Yamagata for students to experience aspects of the Japanese culture such as the Dressing Kimono, Making Soba (Buckwheat noodles), Nannkinn tamasudare (Japanese traditional street Art) , Baking pottery, Zazen meditation, and a Hot spring, through an environment rich in traditional culture and nature in Yamagata. On occasion, specialists from outside the university are invited as a lecturer. The aim of this course is to provide international students an opportunity to improve their proficiency in Japanese and to deepen their understanding of the Japanese culture and society. This course is offered in Spring Semester. The class meets once a week.		
Course Schedule	1	Introduction & Visit Bunshokan: the former Yamagata Prefectural Offices and Assembly Hall	
	2	a cherry blossom-viewing picnic at Kajo Park	
	3	Zazen: Zen meditation (practice)	
	4	Nannkinn tamasudare (Japanese traditional street Art)	
	5	Making Soba (Buckwheat noodles)	
	6	Kendama: cup and ball, Hot spring, Baking pottery (lecture)	
	7	Kendama: cup and ball	
	8	Hot spring	
	9	Baking pottery	
	10	Visit Yamagata commercial high school	
	11	Japanese rites of passage (lecture)	
	12	Kimono (practice)	
	13	Presentation	
	14		
	15		
Textbook (s)	Handouts will be provided.		
Reference (s)	<i>A Kodansha encyclopedia.</i> Kodansha International. 1998.		
Grading Method	Final report	30%	
	Attendance	30%	
	Class participation	20%	
	presentation	20%	
Message to Students	Because field lecture require more time, we will have fewer classroom lectures.		

Contacts	E-mail: freddyu@kdw.kj.yamagata-u.ac.jp Office Telephone: 023-628-4933	Office Hour: Fridays 13:00-14:30
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