

## Syllabus

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|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Course title: Theoretical lecture with reading seminar C / Form and Spirit – understanding Japanese design culture</b>   |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Course instructor(s), contact details: Judit Várhelyi</b><br>e-mail: <a href="mailto:judit.varhelyi@yahoo.com">judit.varhelyi@yahoo.com</a>  |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Code:</b><br>M-AE-E-201-C  | <b>Curriculum</b><br>(program/level):<br>ESMA (ENG) | <b>Recommended semester:</b> 2-3.        | <b>Credit: 5</b>  | <b>Number of class hours:</b><br><b>36</b><br><b>Student task hours:</b><br><b>114</b> |
| <b>Related codes:</b><br>ER-THEO-BA-ELM-232401-03,<br>M-AE-201  | <b>Type:</b><br>seminar/lecture                     | <b>Can it be an elective course? NO.</b> | <b>In case of an elective course what are the specific prerequisites:</b> |  |
| <b>Course connections (prerequisites, parallels):</b>   |   |  |   |  |
| <b>Learning outcomes (professional and general competences to be developed):</b>  |   |  |   |  |
| <p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Japanese culture and aesthetics</li> <li>- inspiration / integration of Japanese aesthetics and viewpoints in their own creative work</li> </ul> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- research</li> <li>- teamwork</li> <li>- presentation</li> </ul> <p>Attitude:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- openness and respect for other culture</li> <li>- critical thinking</li> </ul> <p>Autonomy and responsibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- individual research, creative, critical thinking and writing</li> </ul> |   |  |   |  |
| <b>The course will introduce students to the history, aesthetic principles and work ethics underpinning Japanese design culture.</b>  |   |  |   |  |

**Course schedule, learning process:**

1. week MUJI or manga? Cultural mirrors (lecture)
2. week Kawaii Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake cuteness (lecture)  
group assignment consultation
3. week Japanese aesthetics – introduction (lecture)
4. week Nature and garden – interventions (lecture or off-campus visit)  
group assignment presentation
5. week The spirituality of everyday – silence (lecture)  
group assignment presentation
6. week Workshop
7. week Living traditions (lecture)  
group assignment presentation
8. week Why are there no buttons on a kimono? (lecture)
9. week Mottainai – just enough (lecture)
10. week Movie morning
11. week Student presentations
12. week Why do we (not) love Japan? (lecture)

**Students' tasks and responsibilities:**

The course is structured around lectures, hands-on workshop and student group-work . Students are required to actively participate in class, do research and work in small groups as well as submit a final essay.

**Learning environment:**

Classroom as main environment  
Studio for the workshop and film viewing  
Off-campus location if possible

**Requirements to be met, assignments:**

- Class attendance (maximum number of absences: 3)
- research into 3 Japanese designers or artists
- group work / research and presentation
- final presentation in class
- individual assignment for final essay

**Assessment criteria:**

- Active participation in class and in group work
- Quality and depth of research
- Quality of presentation (graphics, structure, depth, use of relevant expressions)
- Quality and depth of individual research, independent, critical, creative thinking

**Method of assessment:**

Class activity

Evaluation of the submitted material (e.g essay)

Evaluation of group work and group presentation

**How the grade is calculated:**

class participation: 20%

group work, presentation: 30%

individual assignment (essay): 50%

91–100 %: 5

76–90 %: 4

61–75 %: 3

51–60 %: 2

0–50 %: 1

**Required literature:**

- links and articles provided during the semester via Google Classroom

**Recommended literature:**

Kenya Hara: White

Kenya Hara: Designing Design

Naoto Fukasawa (Phaidon)

Jun'ichiro Tanizaki: In Praise of Shadows

Kakuzo Okakura: The Book of Tea

Roland Barthes: Empire of Signs

Takeshi Nakadawa: The Japanese House In Space, Memory, and Language

Azby Brown: Just Enough

Alex Kerr: Dogs and Demons

William Gibson: Modern boys and mobile girls (article)

Kenji Ekuan: Electronics and the Japanese Soul (article)

Nitschke, Günter: Japanese gardens: Right angle and natural form (article)

**Recommended movies:**

Tampopo (director Itami Juzo) 1985

Rikyu (director Teshigahara Hiroshi) 1989

Lost in Translation (director Sofia Coppola) 2003

Departures (Okuribito) (director Takita Yōjirō) 2018

Miyazaki Hayao animations

Tokyo Story (director Ozu Yasujirō) 1953

Rashomon (director Kurosawa Akira) 1950

Sanctuary (Netflix)

Hell Dogs (Netflix)

**Recommended documentaries:**

Jiro Dreams of Sushi (Netflix)

The Birth of Saké

**Other information:**

necessary equipment: online research tools

The course is taught by Judit Várhelyi, architect, design expert and ikebana artist. Judit has lived and worked in Japan for over 20 years. Her mission is to channel Japanese aesthetics and design values into European design practice.

webpage: [www.ikebanaontheroad.com](http://www.ikebanaontheroad.com)

Facebook, Instagram: @ikebanaontheroad

**Recognition of knowledge acquired elsewhere/previously/validation principle:**

No exemption from attending and completing the course.

**Out-of-class consultation times and location:**

e-mail, Google Classroom, face to face consultation at pre-arranged time and location