

Syllabus

Course title: Form and Spirit – understanding Japanese culture				
Course instructor(s), contact details: Judit Várhelyi e-mail: judit.varhelyi@gmail.com				
Code: M-AE-E-201-B	Curriculum (program/level): ES MA	Recommended semester: 2-4	Credit: 5	Number of class hours: 36 Student task hours: 114
Related codes: M-AE-201, ER-THEO-MA-252601-05	Type: (seminar/lecture/ consultation, etc.)	Can it be an elective course? no	In case of an elective course what are the specific prerequisites: -	
Course connections (prerequisites, parallels):				
Learning outcomes (professional and general competences to be developed): Knowledge: - Japanese culture and aesthetics - inspiration / integration of Japanese aesthetics and viewpoints in own creative work Skills: - research - teamwork - presentation Attitude: - openness and respect for other cultures - critical thinking Autonomy and responsibility: - individual research, critical thinking and essay writing				
The course will introduce students to the history, aesthetic principles, customs and ethics underpinning Japanese design culture.				

Course schedule, learning process:

1. week / September 4
MUJI or manga? Cultural mirrors (lecture)
2. week / September 11
Japanese aesthetics – introduction (lecture)
3. week / September 18
Kawaii Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake cuteness (lecture)
group assignment consultation
4. week / September 25
Nature and garden – interventions (lecture)
group assignment presentations
5. week / October 2
The spirituality of everyday – silence (lecture)
6. week / October 9
Living traditions (lecture)
group assignment presentations
7. week / MOME course week
8. week / National Holiday
9. week / October 30
Why are there no buttons on a kimono? (lecture)
group assignment consultation
10. week / November 6
Japanese aesthetics – advanced (lecture)
11. week / November 13
Student presentations
12. week / November 27
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 event recommendations

How the grade is calculated:

class participation: 10%

group work, presentation: 30%

individual assignment (essay): 60%

91–100 %: 5

76–90 %: 4

61–75 %: 3

51–60 %: 2

0–50 %: 1

Required literature:

Sakaida Kakiemon: The Art of Emptiness 2019 (MOME library)

Shimura Fuki: The music of color 2019 (MOME library)

William Gibson: Modern boys and mobile girls (article)

Kenji Ekuan: Electronics and the Japanese Soul (article)

further links and articles provided during the semester via Google Classroom

Recommended literature:

Kenya Hara: White

Kenya Hara: Designing Design

Yanagi, Soetsu: The unknown craftsman

Naoto Fukasawa (Phaidon)

Jun'ichiro Tanizaki: In Praise of Shadows

Kakuzo Okakura: The Book of Tea

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

Azby Brown: Just Enough

Alex Kerr: Dogs and Demons

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

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 values into European design practice.

webpage: 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

judit.varhelyi@gmail.com