

JCMU Experience II (1 credit)

**The Japan Center for Michigan Universities
Hikone, Shiga JAPAN
In affiliation with Michigan State University
Spring 2017
Instructor: Benjamin J. McCracken, Esq.**

Fridays from 14:10 to 15:10 (unless otherwise advised)

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Course Description: The purpose of the JCMU Experience course is to help students develop strategies for thriving in Japan and beyond. As part of this course students will be required to engage with Japanese people directly through several options including homestays, university clubs and circles, internships, and JCMU weekly programs. Students will use what they learned during their first semester at JCMU to delve deeper into Japan and will discuss their experiences in class.

Instruction objectives include:

1. To learn more about and be able to compare one's own cultural and traditions through comparative inquiries of Japan.
2. To learn and practice techniques for cultural understanding and intercultural communications.
3. To gain skills to facilitate inquiry into globalization and its impacts from the perspectives of others.
4. Learn life skills that will allow students to make use of their study abroad experiences in a more meaningful way.

Course Requirements/ Assignments and Evaluations

- ◆ **Punctuality and Attendance:** Students are required to attend all lecture meetings, field observations, and other scheduled events programmed for this course. Excessive tardiness to class and class activities may result in the dismissal of a student from a program.
- ◆ **Absence Policy:** Your attendance is very important not only to you but also to other classmates. Due to the nature of Study Abroad, no unannounced absences will be permitted. Please refer Office of Study Abroad for further details (<http://studyabroad.msu.edu>). Your tardiness may be counted as 1/2 unexcused absence. Excessive unexcused absences may result in dismissal from the course.
- ◆ **Preparation and Participation:** Students are expected to be prepared and participate. Students are expected to prepare for class by completing the reading assignments and

preparing for selected discussion topics prior to attending class. Participation is a key element to your success in this course. Class discussion and interactivity with the class as a whole is critical to developing an awareness of the content described in lectures and readings. Students that are not prepared will be asked to leave the class and will be marked as absent. Participation constitutes 20% of your grade.

Japan Experience: Students MUST participate in any one of the following during this course: Homestay (lasting more than one month), University Club or Circle (at USP of Shigadai), Internship, Wednesday Night Activity Program Committee, or an independent study that requires meeting and interacting with Japanese people.

Presentations: The presentation allows the students to educate through their experiences. They will have maximum flexibility in showing what they have learned. This will also allow the participants to reflect broadly about cultural experiences and cultural values and how these figure into major lessons learned while at JCMU. Additional information concerning the contents of the presentation will be provided in an additional handout. *Specific dates and times will be provided.*

Journal: Students must keep a journal for the entire period of this course

Reflection Paper: There will be one final reflection paper.

Required Reading: Readings will be assigned as needed

Academic Honesty and Classroom Etiquette

Students should always value academic honesty in their own work. In addition to other things, plagiarism is considered among the most blatant forms of academic dishonesty. This means that a student will not submit any written work that has been copied from the Internet or any other form of published media. Additionally a student will not submit any work that has been written by another person without citing that source and will never submit another's work as his/her own. This would also include unacknowledged paraphrasing. As specified by university policy, such academic dishonesty may result in a penalty grade for the course. For more information on academic dishonesty policy please refer to the Ombudsman webpage:

<https://www.msu.edu/unit/ombud/honestylinks.html>

Grading Criteria and Grading Scale

You will be graded on four elements: a) papers or projects, b) attendance, c) participation, d) presentations as described above.

Attendance	Participation	Writing Assignments	Presentation
20%	40%	10%	30%

NOTE 1: Attendance makes up to 20 % of the whole course grade. However, if a student misses three (3) classes without permission or medical excuse, the student maybe terminated from the course.

NOTE 2: Participation means “active” participation. Simply being there is not the same as participating. Points for participation will be awarded only when students are actively engaging in classroom activities, discussion, field exploration, and other learning activities for this course.

Grade Breakdown

Conversion Table between 4.0 Scale and Points

4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0	1.5	1.0	0.0
point							
90-100	85-89	80-84	75-79	70-74	65-69	60-64	59 & below

Class Schedule and Assignments

Please note that the student prepared for discussions prior to each class.

Class 1 (1/13) – Transitioning to the second semester and Japan Experience introduction and planning.

Class 2 (1/20) – Goal setting and reflection

Class 3(1/27) – Japan Experience discussion (Each student must talk about their recent experiences and what they’ve learned from them)

Class 4 (2/3) – Japan Experience discussion

Class 5 (2/10) – Japan Experience discussion

Class 6 (2/17) – Japan Experience discussion

Class 7 (2/24) – Halfway there – Goal discussion and exit strategies

Class 8 (3/3) – Japan Experience discussion

Class 9 (3/10) – Japan Experience discussion

Class 10 (3/17) – Potential careers in Japan – TESOL

Class 11 (3/24) – Presentations

Class 12 (3/31) – Presentations

Class 13 (4/7) – Resume review

Class 14 (4/14) – (This class will be two hours) Preparing for life back home and final reflections

Reflection Papers and journals are due on April 17th by Midnight to bmccracken@jcmu.org