



JAPAN 333 Tales of Two Cities: Recreating Kyoto and Tokyo Winter 2013

Instructor: Professor Mikael Adolphson

Lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays 14:00-15:20, Pembina Hall 358.

Office: Pembina Hall, room 357.

Office Hours: T, Th, 13:00- 14:00, or by appointment.

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Course website url: <https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/course/view.php?id=14732>

Course Description

“Tales of Two Cities” focuses on the two most important cities in Japanese culture and history: Kyoto and Tokyo (Edo). We will explore and learn about these cities, not only as teacher and student but also as a team. Thus, students are expected to be active participants both in the teaching and learning processes. Using this experiential learning approach, we will create our own visual and textual narratives of these cities, working together to locate, read and analyze material available in various collections. Most of this work will take place in smaller groups, each focusing on a unique assignment within a general theme of the particular section we are working on. Students will additionally use all elements of communication---visual, oral and written---to present their findings. This will, in other words, be a course that prepares students for the most important skills needed to be successful after graduation, while using an academic topic as our focus.

Course Requirements and Grading

This course is designed to teach students how to independently find and learn about the resources needed to successfully solve an assignment. As a majority of the assignments in this course will be performed in a group setting, students will also learn how to effectively work together, and how to present material in a coherent and powerful way, all skills that are essential in your post-graduate life.

There will be no exams for this course, since I will apply a student-centered approach. This means that students will actively pursue and learn the skills needed, with my guidance, and in fact shape the course itself.

Group Assignment:

Each student will complete one group project, focusing either on Kyoto or on Edo/Tokyo. These projects will be worked out during the course but the purpose is, in short, to recreate life and the cityscapes at different stages in the history of these cities. These projects are central to the course and to the skills you will need to learn. You will have multiple opportunities to get feedback on your assignment but you will need to spend considerable time on it outside the classroom. I will expect each student to be active and contributing members in their groups. The assignment will end with a presentation of the visual material created for the course, but the mark for the assignment will be based on the entirety of the assignment.

Journal Entries

As part of your group project, you will be asked to submit bi-weekly journal entries discussing your progress (or lack thereof). The journal entries are personal and do not have to be shared as they will be reviewed by the instructor, but they are also designed to help students develop their writing skills. The journal entries should be no less than 1 page long, discuss in an honest and serious manner what students have done, learned and accomplished during the week.

Self-Reflective Group Essay

Following the journal entries and the completion of the project, students will be asked to write a reflective essay as a group. The essay should be 3-5 pages, discussing the project, how the work proceeded, and what was learned from it. The reports are due **on April 8 before class**, to be submitted as electronic files (preferably Word) to the website. The essays should take the form of an official report, written in 12-point font, double-spaced, properly cited (if needed) and contain a bibliography of texts and sources used. For more information about writing papers, please see the website and the UofA library website (<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/content.php?pid=57725&sid=422871>). You can also get help from the Centre for Writers.

Group Assessments

By the end of the course, each student will be asked to assess the work of their group members as well as the presentations by other groups. These assessments will be taken into consideration for students' individual marks, though the instructor retains the prerogative to overrule assessments that lack in seriousness or evidence. At the same time, the assessments will serve as indicators of the student's own engagement throughout the course.

Group Lectures

Each group will be asked to make two in-class lectures on pre-assigned topics related to their cities of choice.

Participation and Attendance

Students will also be graded on participation, attendance and classroom lectures throughout the course. Attendance at all sections are mandatory, as are the film viewings, but if you have a conflict, you may view the films on your own **before** the assigned day and submit a review. You will be allowed a total of two class absences without points being deducted, but any unexcused absences after that will have an impact on your participation grade. No exceptions to this rule will be made, which includes bad weather, poor planning, late enrolment in the course, girl/boyfriend troubles, job interviews, getting lost on your way to class etc. The only excused absence is illness, which must be satisfactorily explained and conveyed to me via email within

48 hours or a reasonable time as deemed appropriate. Recording of lectures is permitted only with the prior written consent of the professor or if recording is part of an approved accommodation plan.

Grading

The grades in this and all my classes are absolute. This means that I do not curve and that your grade will reflect your work in the class, according to standards that would apply anywhere. You will find that I maintain high standards, will expect you to put in a considerable effort in the class and that you will be pushed and challenged perhaps more than you are in most other classes. Please make sure that you have the **time, energy and motivation to put in that kind of effort.**

The weight of each requirement is as follows:

Group Assignment

Journal entries	10%
Project & Presentation	30%
Self-Reflective group essay	20%
Group Lectures	10%

Group Assessments

Team members	5%
Other groups	5%
Attendance and participation	20%

Letter Grade Equivalents:

A+ 97.5-100 B+ 87.5-89.9 C+ 77.5-79.9 D+ 67.5-69.9 F 0-59.9

A 92.5-97.4 B 82.5-87.4 C 72.5-77.4 D 60.0-67.4

A- 90.0-92.4 B- 80.0-82.4 C- 70.0-72.4

Student Conduct

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behavior (online at http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/gfcpolicymanual/content.cfm?ID_page=37633) and avoid any behavior that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University. (GFC 29 SEP 2003). For more about plagiarism, see for example http://collegeuniversity.suite101.com/article.cfm/a_definition_for_plagiarism.

I also expect each student to show appropriate respect for the instructor, other students and the course itself by being on time in class, and for ensuring that we are not interrupted by cell phones during lectures and discussions.

If you are interested in checking the details of what the university requires of students, teachers and course syllabi, please see the university policy about course outlines, which can be found in ' 23.4(2) of the University *Calendar*. (GFC 29 SEP 2003).

Email Etiquette

I am always available for consultation, feedback and general advice via email, but it must occur in a respectful and appropriate manner. Occasionally students and instructors forget that there is a real person on the other side reading and reacting to emails, so it is vital that you consider this to avoid sending messages that come across as disrespectful, rude and excessively selfish. Accordingly, in order to maintain a positive and respectful atmosphere, you should address the other person as you would face to face. *I will therefore expect that I be addressed by my title and last name (Professor Adolphson or Dr. Adolphson), the very same way you should address all your professors unless they have expressed other preferences.*

Course texts

As this is an experiential learning course, there are no textbooks assigned. Students will instead find their own resources and compile their own bibliographies.

SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction

Jan. 7 (T) Introduction (Explanation of course objectives, requirement and policies)
Students enrolling late or missing this meeting are responsible for obtaining the syllabus and other vital information on their own.

Jan. 9 (Th) Preparing for the Assignment: Tools and Resources
 Includes Library resource presentation by Mr. Louis Choir.

Week 2. Setting up the Projects

Jan. 14 (T) Working in a Group, Completing a Project and Presenting It
Groups for the project assignments will be announced in class. Work will begin immediately.

Jan 16 (Th) Lecture (MA): Two Political Centres— Two Contexts

Week 3. Finding and Assessing Sources

Jan 21 (T) Discussion: Sources and Process
 Where do we find sources about these cities, and how do we use them?

Jan 23 (Th) Lecture (MA): Scholarly approaches to Japan's historic cities

Week 4. Group Lectures I

Jan 28 (T) Group Lecture 1a: Early Kyoto

Jan 30 (Th) Group Lecture 1b: Edo

6:30PM Film: Onmyoji: The Yin Yang Master. (PB 358)

Jan 31 (F) First journal entry due by 5 PM.

Week 5. Modern Kyoto

Feb 4 (T) Lecture (MA): Ways of Recreating the Past and the Present

Feb 6 (Th) Group Work and Updates

Week 6. Group Lectures II

Feb. 11 (T) Group Lecture 1c: Medieval Kyoto

Feb. 13 (Th) Group Lecture 1d: Late Edo Life

Feb. 14 (F) Second journal entry due by 5 PM.

Week 6. Processes of Recreating Contexts and Environments

Feb. 11 (T) Brief Group Reports: Sharing Resources

Feb. 13 (Th) Lecture (MA): Challenges and Opportunities for Japan's Two Capital Cities

Week 7. Reading Week. No classes.

Week 8. Group Presentations III

Feb. 25 (T) Preparation and Discussion Session

Feb. 27 (Th) No Class: Film Viewing Make-up.

Feb. 28 (F) Third Journal entry due by 5PM

Week 9. Edo Culture and Life

Mar 4 (T) Group Lecture 2a: Modernizing Kyoto

Mar 6 (Th) Group Lecture 2b: Modernizing Tokyo

Week 10. Group Presentations IV: The Modern City

Mar 11 (T) Group Lecture 2c: Contemporary Kyoto

Mar 13 (Th) Group Lecture 2d: Contemporary Tokyo

6:30PM Film: Tokyo Sonata (PB 358)

March 14 (F) Fourth Journal Entry due by 5 PM

Week 11. Tokyo Neighborhoods

Mar 18 (T) Project and Presentation Planning: Update Reports

Mar 20 (Th) No Class – Make Up for Film Viewing

Week 12. Re-Creating Kyoto

Mar 25 (T) *Premodern Kyoto Presentations*

Mar 27 (Th) *Modern Kyoto Presentations*

Week 13. Edo and Tokyo Representations

Apr 1 (T) *Edo Presentations*

Apr 3 (W) *Tokyo Presentations*

Week 14 Final Week

Apr 8 (T) *Wrap-Up Session*

Self-Reflective Group Essay Due Before Class

