

Syllabus / Course description

Japan study tour 2020:

Exploring the modern and traditional arts of Japan

Instructor: Preston Saunders / Chris Kelly

This course explores the modern and traditional arts and culture of Japan. The study tour concentrates on the village of Echizen, Kanazawa, Okayama, and the contemporary island of Naoshima. Echizen is considered one of the six ancient kiln sites which has an 800-year-old history of traditional wood fired pottery, while there students will, visit museums, participate in a traditional anagama kiln firing, visit ancient kiln ruins, tour artists' studio, visit the Echizen outdoor sculpture garden and learn about Echizens agriculture industry. From there, the course travels to Kanazawa, which is famous for its production of items used for the traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony. Kanazawa is also known for its renowned outdoor gardens and temples. Here students will learn first-hand and participate in a formal tea ceremony from an eleventh generation Tea Master while also visiting numerous contemporary and historical museums. Students will also visit Okayama's exquisite gardens and travel to the art island of Naoshima. This Island offers opportunities to view a range in artworks from Claude Monet to James Turrell. Additionally, students will attend cultural events, artist talks, tour museums, and studios. Prior to this study-tour, students will attend a ceramic workshop at BSU and create their own ceramic pieces to be sent and fired alongside those of master artisans of Echizen anagama kiln. All BSU Course Policies will be in place: Students will prepare a reaction paper/presentation upon return.

Textbooks: Required reading prior to departure: "Road to Miyama"

The Grading system

1. Preparatory Assignments 25% 2. Participation 25% 3. Reactive/Research Paper 25% 4. Studio Art project & journal 25% Grading

Student Learning Outcomes:

- -Knowledge of traditional Japanese crafts and their use in the Tea Ceremony
- -Familiarity with Japanese art terminology.
- -An exposure to works of art within an exhibition setting, as well as within everyday life.
- -Knowledge and understanding in making and supporting their own personal artistic decisions.
- -Recognition of qualities within different periods of art.
- -Knowledge of different crafts and production methods in Japan.
- -Appreciation of varied art styles and media.
- -Knowledge of how art & crafts affects history, as well as everyday life.
- Students will produce a pinch pot and participate in an anagama firing in Echizen, Japan.
- Students will analyze and evaluate ceramics using various means of criticism.
- Using Road to Miyama students will discuss the apprentice system of learning a traditional craft.
- Students will synthesize a philosophy of aesthetics focused on Japanese's ceramics history and culture.

Reflection paper: 7page Due via email

- Japanese culture either preserves, weaves, or assimilates pre-modern traditions into contemporary society. Many arguments are made that this arrangement is either killing or sustaining the old traditions. During this trip, look for specific examples of both contemporary and traditional “Expression” (art, advertising, architecture, craft, ceramics, design, gardens, tea ceremony, religion, etc) and note their impact. In a 7-page paper, use at least three concrete examples of your observations to compare and contrast contemporary and traditional “Expressions”. Using your comparisons, form an argument on the “Traditions” value in Japanese society today.

Course Schedule Japan 2020

Tentative Itinerary Japan 2020 (May 19th –June 2nd)

May 19 th	Depart Boston Logan
May 20 th	Arrive Komatsu Japan Train to Takefu, bus to Echizen, First night (Wakatake-so)
May 21	Echizen (Wakatake-so) Walking Tour of Echizen sculpture garden, First night of firing kiln
May 22	Echizen (Wakatake-so) Pottery festival, tour Echizen craft museum, 2 nd night firing
May 23 rd	Echizen (Wakatake-so) Pottery festival, Studio pottery tour, 3 rd night firing
May 24 th	Echizen (Wakatake-so) Pottery festival, Craft auction, TBA, Night Firing
May 25 th	Echizen (Wakatake-so) 8:am kiln firing finish, Pottery festival final day, TBA : (Miho museum)
May 26 th	Travel by train / boat: Echizen - Naoshima Art Island (Yurts)
May 27 th	Naoshima Island (yurts) Chichu Art museum, Art house project/ scavenger –hunt, star gaze
May 28 th	Naoshima Island Bennese house museum, Ando museum Travel: Naoshima Island - Okayama Possible garden tour Korakuen (Okayama APA hotel)
May 29 th	Okayama (APA hotel) Ohara Museum of Art, Kurasiki Historical area, Orient museum
May 30 th	Travel: Okayama – Kanazawa (Manteen hotel) TBA: (Ochi market, 21 st century museum)
May 31 st	TBA: (Ohi Studio, museum tour, Tea ceremony)
June 1 st	TBA ((Kenrokuen garden& Kanazawa Castle, prefectural museum)
June 2 nd	Travel Train: Kanazawa – Komatsu
June 2 nd	Komatsu airport – Boston Logan
June 2 nd	Arrive Boston (Time zone)

Free time will be given to students during trip in each city