



LOST IN JAPANSLATION

日本訳に二迷った

overview

Japan has a rich history, culture, and artistic traditions, all of which we will explore in this elective. From manga and anime to sushi and yakitori to architecture, tea ceremony, martial arts, calligraphy, philosophy and so on, Japanese culture has become such a global presence in the present day that it is hard to believe that merely 150 years ago the island nation has been living in virtual economic, political, and cultural isolation from the rest of the world. Our elective will be steered by students' interests, but we will also dig deeper into those interests to learn & experience the essence of Japanese culture--its religion (Shinto, Confucianism, Zen), history (ancient to post-WWII), literature (haiku, theater, folklore, modern texts), language (hiragana & katakana), food, and much more.

essential understanding

guiding question I: What are some of the defining values of Japanese society?

guiding question II: What are the features of a Japanese "aesthetic," and how has it influenced art, design, cuisine, and cultures from around the world?

guiding question III: How is Japan's current-day popular culture shaped by its past traditions?

lessons

- * Creation myth of Japan
- * Shinto / Zen / Confucianism
- * Medieval Japan: Samurai, Geisha, and the Imperial Court
- * The “Floating World”
- * Modern Japan Imperialism & WWII
- * Japanese Cuisine
- * Anime, Manga, etc. studies

group work

- * Weekly group presentations
- * Socratic Seminars
- * Cultural product project (details to follow on Google Classroom)

individual work

- *Favorite kana poster
- *Movie responses
- *Japanese restaurant review
- *Hiragana/katakana “quizzes”
- *Field trip write-up
- *Pair/Shares - individual research

assessment

- *好きな事プロジェクト “Suki-na-koto Purojekto”: Favorite “Thing” Project

extensions

Extensions will **only** be given to students who fill out and turn in an Extension Request Form **one class prior to an assignment’s due date**. Any late work without a prior request will be marked down a half grade (A to A-, A- to B+) per each day late.

readings

TBD: Week by week, we will read some literature, history, or share texts of comics etc. Examples include mythology, essays, poems, stories, comics, history articles, etc. Each reading will relate to the week’s topic. Students will be provided with print copy and PDF on Google Classroom by Mr. Neilson.

Films:

Seven Samurai

Spirited Away

Jiro Dreams of Sushi

Dolls

and more/others (TBD by the group)