

Course Title	
Introduction to Religions in Contemporary Japan 現代日本の宗教 (<i>gendai nihon no shukyo</i>)	 九州大学 KYUSHU UNIVERSITY
Faculty	
International Student Center	
Credit	
2	
Time	
Wednesday, Period 5 (16:40-18:10)	
Class Room	
(To be decided)	
Instructor	
Maki IWASAKI, Ph.D. (Associate Professor, International Student Center)	
Contact: iwasaki.maki.610 [at] m.kyushu-u.ac.jp	
Office hour	
No specific hour. Contact the lecturer by an e-mail and make an appointment.	
Course Description	
<p>Throughout history, religion has been playing an active role in the life of individuals and Japanese society as well as the rest of the world. Religion is important for an individual and for a society because it is (1) believed in and practiced by individuals in most of the countries around the world, (2) one of the fundamental elements for the life of certain individuals, (3) one of the basic elements for the legislation and/or social system in certain countries and (4) used as a reason for the political disputes or international conflicts in certain regions.</p> <p>In Japan, due to the modernization, especially after the World War II, it is often said that the influence of religion on individuals and society has been declining. However, when we look closely from the comparative religion perspective, many Japanese engage in religious practices in their daily lives sometimes without even recognizing. Also, as a result of globalization, the growing number of foreigners who started living in Japan bring their religious practices and that presence changes the religious situation in Japan.</p>	

With this background in mind, in this course, we will focus on topics as follow: "Concept of 'Religion'", "Globalization, Post-secularization and Religion", "Overview of Religions in Contemporary Japan" and major religions in contemporary Japan, such as Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam. To be able to integrate understandings of these topics into everyday practices of the people in different religious communities, we will conduct 4 off-campus fieldwork trips to a Shinto shrine, a Buddhist temple, a Christian church and an Islamic mosque.

The class will be divided into 4 groups and each group have a presentation on either of the fieldworks so that students can have deeper comprehension.

Course Capacity

20 students

(Up to 15-20 JTW students and up to 0-5 Kyushu University degree students)

Course Eligibility

(1) JTW students

(2) Kyushu University degree students (If there is enough capacity)

Course Form

(1) In-class lecture and group presentation

(2) Off-campus fieldwork

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

(1) better understand situation of religions in contemporary Japan.

(2) describe what religions can mean to people in contemporary Japan.

(3) integrate in-class lessons and course materials into everyday practices of the people in different religious communities through off-campus fieldworks in Fukuoka prefecture.

(4) summarize (1) to (3) through groupwork and group presentation.

Keywords

Comparative Religion, Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Culture, Society, Contemporary Japan, Fieldwork

Course Schedule

1	10/11	Introduction Concept of "Religion"
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2	10/18	Globalization, Post-secularization and Religion Overview of Religions in Contemporary Japan (Grouping of students)
3	10/24 (Sat.)	Fieldwork (1): Hakata Okunchi Festival at Kushida Shinto Shrine (Supplementary of the class on 11/1)
4	10/25	Shinto
-	11/1	(No class. Supplementary class will be on Sat. 10/24)
5	11/8	Group Presentation about Hakata Okunchi
6	11/15	Buddhism in Japan
7	11/22	Fieldwork (2): Buddhist Temple (Venue will be decided)
8	11/29	Group Presentation about Fieldwork at the Buddhist Temple
9	12/6	Christianity in Japan
10	12/13	Fieldwork (3): Christian Church (Venue will be decided)
11	12/20	Group Presentation about Fieldwork at the Christian Church in Japan
12	1/10	Islam in Japan
13	1/17	Fieldwork (4): Fukuoka Masjid (mosque) Al Nour Islamic Culture Center
14	1/24	Group Presentation about Fieldwork at the Mosque in Japan
15	1/31	Summary and In-class Final Report

*The schedule is subject to change due to the availability of visiting sites and university bus.

Course Text

Earhart, Byron H. "Religions of Japan: many traditions within one sacred way," Ed. Byron H. Earhart. *Religious Traditions of the World: A Journey through Africa, North America, Mesoamerica, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, China and Japan*, New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1993.

Reference Materials

石井研士「変化する日本人の宗教意識と神観」『國學院大學紀要』第 48 卷、2010 年、106-119 頁。
(Ishii, Kenji. "Henka suru Nihonjin no shukyo ishiki to kamikan" (Changes of Japanese religious awareness and notion of deity), *Journal of Kokugakuin* 40, 2010, pp.106-119.)
塩尻和子・津城寛文・吉水千鶴子監修『図解宗教史』成美堂出版、2008 年。
(Kazuko, S., Hirofumi, T. and Yoshimizu, C. *Zukai Shukyo-shi* (Illustrated History of Religion), Seibido, 2008.)

店田廣文「世界と日本のムスリム人口」『人間科学研究』第 26 巻第 1 号、2013 年、27-37 頁。

(Hirofumi, Tanada. "Muslim Population in the World and Japan 2011" Waseda Journal of Human Sciences 26 (1), 2013, pp.27-37.)

棚次正和・山中弘編著『宗教学入門』ミネルヴァ書房、2005 年。

(Tanatsugu, M. and Yamanaka H. *Shukyogaku Nyumon* (Introduction to Religious Studies), Minerva, 2005.)

and more materials will be announced in the class

Course Policies

* All students should actively engage in the course. Since we are unable to have enough face-to-face dialogue, much of your learning, retention, and evaluation will depend upon your ability 1) to make your presence known; and 2) to interact with the lecturer and your fellow students.

* Be aware of your behavior and outfit especially during the fieldwork. When you visit a shrine, a temple, a church or a mosque, you should 1) follow the dress code which will be announced in the class, 2) maintain quiet and respectful manner and 3) show your appreciation for host and staff who welcome you.

* Be respectful to each other. This is especially important when you work together in a group and have a discussion in the class.

Evaluation

1. Attendance more than 12 out of 15 or 80% of classes (10%)
2. Active discussion participation (10%)
3. Positive collaboration with the fellow students (10%)
4. Group presentation (30%)
5. Final in-class report (40%)