

## Fashion in Japan: Art and History of the Kimono and Western Dress Culture

### Section 1

Instructor/Title	DRUET Lucile
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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

From the origins of kimono to the anti-fashion design of Rei Kawakubo, this course will be exploring the parallel routes of traditional Japanese clothing (和服・*wafuku*) and western fashion (洋服・*yōfuku*) in Japan. From showing social ranking to expressing one's identity, analyzing clothing in Japan will be seen as an encompassing dynamic, coming from the need of covering one's body to an artistic and performative statement about one's identity, gender, Japanese culture, aesthetics, silhouettes and body consciousness. Employing a variety of materials (books, visual artworks, movies, magazines, illustrations etc.) this course will examine how kimono and western fashion are embedded in Japanese society, history, popular culture and visual arts and how it connects with people's sartorial habits, inside and outside Japan.

### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Through an overview of the characteristics and history of kimono and western fashion in Japan, this course will help the students understand the aesthetic dimensions of clothing and fashion. With a particular focus on artists, designers, performers, illustrators and authors, the students will be able to grasp how creators are using kimono and western clothes for specific effects. The students will be invited to think about clothing as an intersection between tradition and modernity that generates cultural, philosophical and poetic communication. With underlying questions such as : What is it to dress up ? What is it to be fashionable ?

Courses provide knowledge and skills that students can use in their everyday lives as well as their academic career. This course encourages the development of abilities in analytic reading, critical thinking, research, writing proficiency and effective communication. Students will be asked to come to class prepared for discussion, participation, group work, and producing research papers.

### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Class #	Contents	Readings / preparations
1	Course introduction : presentation of the different topics that will be studied in class and grading system.	Start reading <i>Naomi</i> (the whole novel) in preparation for class # 8 : Kimono in literature / 2
2	Kimono history / 1 Overview of Japanese clothing from the Kofun to the Muromachi period : evolution, clothing codes, color codes ( <i>iro-kasane</i> ) and motifs.	Locate and make a list of the different kimono evolutions discussed in : > Liza Dalby, <i>Kimono, Fashioning Culture</i> (pp.12~63)

3	Kimono history / 2 Survey of Japanese clothing from the Edo period to the early Showa period: diversification, the birth of kimono as “fashion”. (accessories and democratization).	Make a list of the different aspects of the kimono in : > Liza Dalby, <i>Kimono, Fashioning Culture</i> (pp.65~118)  Understand how Western dress shaped and influenced the kimono uses and aesthetics in : > Terry Satsuki Milhaupt, <i>Kimono, A Modern History</i> (pp.56~63)  Understand the concepts of “clothing” versus “fashion” > Yuniya Kawamura, <i>Fashion-ology</i> (pp.31~55)
4	Kimono history / 3 The kimono and its contemporary design, codes and (re)use aesthetics (ceremonial kimono, reform etc...)	Understand what the author means when saying “how are designers and consumers making the kimono <i>ride a bicycle</i> ?”: > Jenny Hall, “Re-fashioning the Kimono” in <i>New Voices in Japanese Studies Vol.7</i> (pp.59-84) Read the different kimono makers and designers’ profiles and understand how they see the kimono in our contemporary age: > Sheila Cliffe, <i>The Social Life of Kimono</i> (pp.112~158)
5	Kimono history / 4 Charting the evolution of the kimono in terms of tailoring, weaving and dyeing techniques (terminology)	Read and list the different textile weaving and dyeing techniques: > Annie Van Asshe, “Interweavings” in <i>Fashioning Kimono</i> (pp.7~29)
6	Class discussion : Kimono, early history to contemporary design(s): comparison and analysis.	Review your notes and handouts. Prepare ideas and arguments about the topics seen in class # 1 to 5 to discuss in class.
7	Kimono in literature / 1 Heian texts and poetry Sei Shonagon Princess Shikishi Lady Nijō Ono no Komachi Izumi Shikibu	Locate the references made to the Heian period kimono, the connection with nature (seasons) and emotions in the different poems from : > <i>The Pillow Book</i> (pp.40 / 51 / 60 / 69 / 70~72 / 109~111 / 168~171 / 200~201 / 262~265) > <i>String of Beads, Complete Poems of Princess Shikishi</i> (p. 36 / 39 / 56 / 62~63 / 68~69) > <i>The Confessions of Lady Nijō</i> (pp.3~5 / 8 / 45~46 / 206~209 / 238~240) > <i>The Ink Dark Moon</i> (pp.29 / 54 / 56 / 64 / 152 / 154)
8	Kimono in literature / 2 <i>Naomi</i>	Locate the different occurrences of the kimono in the novel and how it is shaping Naomi’s character: >Junichiro Tanizaki, <i>Naomi</i> (whole novel)
9	Kimono in literature / 3 <i>My Beautiful Shadow</i>	Note the contrast between kimono and western dress in the different passages copied from the book: > Rhadika Jha, <i>My Beautiful Shadow</i> (p.13 / 34~36 / 116~128)
10	Kimono in visual arts / 1 Ukiyo-e	Go to the library to look at books about ukiyo-e. Bring examples of interesting images to share in class.
11	Kimono in visual arts / 2	Examine books in the library about traditional

	Bijin-ga	paintings depicting women (especially <i>Bijin-ga</i> ). Bring examples of images to share in class.
12	Kimono in visual arts / 3 Japonisme	Understand what Japonisme and its variations mean in : > Terry Satsuki Milhaupt, <i>Kimono, A Modern History</i> (pp.139~176) > Akiko Fukai “The Kimono and Parisian Mode” in <i>Fashioning Kimono</i> (pp.49~55)
13	Kimono in media / 1 Illustrations and advertisement	Explore the internet and bring examples to share in class.
14	Kimono in media / 2 Western and Japanese Pop culture (music, manga, anime etc...)	Explore the internet and bring examples to share in class.
15	Kimono in movies / 1 Overview Western and Japanese movies From <i>The Crimson Kimono</i> to <i>Kill Bill</i> From <i>Lady Snowblood</i> to <i>A courtesan with flowered skin</i>	Explore the internet and bring examples to share in class.
16	Kimono in movies / 2 Comparison <i>The Makioka Sisters</i> (Kon Ichikawa, 1983) <i>Memoirs of a Geisha</i> (Rob Marshall, 2005)	Gather information about both sorties (characters, plot) by reading: > Anthony Hood Chambers, <i>The Secret Window: Ideal Worlds in Tanizaki's fiction</i> (pp.69-91) > Peter Rainer, “The Makioka Sisters: Incandescence” in <i>The X List</i> (pp.189~191) > Peggy Mulloy, David James, <i>Memoirs of a Geisha: A Portrait of the Film</i> (pp.125~131)
17	Class discussion Kimono in literature, visual arts, media and movies	Prepare to discuss the question of reality and fiction concerning the kimono in visual art, pop culture and movies. ※ Midterm paper due
18	Western dress in Japan / 1 History and first “waves” of importation	Understand the arrival and evolution of Western fashion in Japan as analyzed by : > Toby Slade, <i>Japanese Fashion, A Cultural History</i> (pp.65~81 / 91~97 / 99~113) > Barbara Sato, <i>The New Japanese Women</i> (pp.45~77)
19	Western dress in Japan / 2 Uniforms	List the different attitudes Japanese can have towards school uniforms as described in : > <i>Wearing Ideology</i> (pp.47~55 / 69~102)
20	Western dress in Japan / 3 Street fashion (Kogyaru, Yamamba, Lolita, Mori Girl, etc.)	Chart the different styles and their characteristics as seen in : > Sharon Kinsella, <i>Schoolgirl Money and Rebellion in Japan</i> (pp.70~74 / 107~113 / 130~141) > Yuniya Kawamura, <i>Fashioning Japanese Subcultures</i> (pp. 51~75 / 92~114) > Leonard Koren, <i>New Fashion Japan</i> (pp.8~29) > Valerie Steele, <i>Japan Fashion Now</i> (pp.27~59)
21	Western dress in Japan / 4_a Street fashion and <i>Kamikaze Girls</i> (Tetsuya Nakashima (2004))	Gather information about the story (characters, plot, production etc...)

22	Western dress in Japan / 4_b Street fashion and <i>Kamikaze Girls</i> (Tetsuya Nakashima (2004))	Prepare to discuss the movie by reading the passage in: > Masafumi Monden, <i>Japanese Fashion Cultures</i> (pp.116~134)
23	Western dress in Japan / 5 Manga, anime and novels	Read passages from : - Ai Yazawa, <i>Nana</i> - Ai Yazawa, <i>Paradise Kiss</i> - Moyoco Anno, <i>In Clothes Called Fat</i> - Radhika Jha, <i>My Beautiful Shadow</i> (pp.3~6 / 26~31 / 32~38 / 48~52 / 56~59 / 62~63 / 84~88) - Haruki Murakami, <i>Tony Takitani</i> (from the <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman</i> collection, pp.225~248) and start listing the different categories of dress used in the different titles and the kind of ideas they generate.
24	Japanese costumes / 1 Cosplay	Understand the cosplay culture as described in: > <i>Fandom Unbound</i> (pp.225~248)
25	Japanese costumes / 2 Noh and Kabuki	Gather information about Noh costumes: > Ashley Milne-Tyte, <i>Sculptures in Silk: Costumes from Japan's Noh Theater</i> (pp.5~10)  Gather information about Kabuki costumes, found in: > Kimino Rinko, <i>Photographic Kabuki</i> (pp.12~35) > Maki Isaka, <i>Onnagata: A Labyrinth of Gendering in Kabuki Theater</i> (pp.5~21)
26	Japanese costumes / 3 Maiko and Geiko	Read and understand the relationship between a geisha, her kimono and its function in : > Komomo, <i>A Geisha's Journey</i> (pp. 18~24 / 32~38 / 78 / 96~100 / 104~113 / 122~127) > Judith Clancy, <i>The Alluring World of Maiko and Geiko</i> (p.16, 26~29, 34, 100~101) > Kelly Foreman, <i>The Gei of Geisha</i> (pp.37~39 / 46~51 / 77~83)
27	Japanese costumes / 4 Takarazuka and Butoh	Gather information about the Takarazuka revue: > Makiko Yamanashi, <i>Takarazuka Revue since 1914</i> . (Introduction, xxi~xxiii) > Leonie Stickland, <i>Gender Gymnastics</i> (p.1~2) Gather information about Butoh dance: > Jean Vialat, Nourit Masson-Selkine, <i>Butoh, Shades of Darkness</i> (pp.16~17) > Ethan Hoffman, Mark Holborn, <i>Butoh, Dance of the Dark Soul</i> (pp.8~15)
28	High-fashion / 1 Japanese designers (Hanae Mori, Kenzo, Issey Miyake, Yohji Yamamoto, Rei Kawakubo)	Chart the different histories and styles developed by the designers in the text: > Yuniya Kawamura, <i>The Japanese Revolution in Paris Fashion</i> (pp.113~149)
29	High-fashion / 2 Brands in Japan (From Louis Vuitton to Uniqlo)	Prepare the class by looking up information about different fashion brands present in Japan by reading: > Ashok Som, Christian Blanckaert <i>The Road To</i>

		<i>Luxury</i> (pp.5~15)
30	Conclusion	Gather your notes and handouts to review for the final exam.

### 【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

No textbooks needed.

The books used and discussed in this lecture course are first hand materials such as novels, magazines, posters, artworks, movies etc... as well as academic essays. The texts will be given directly to the students as packets and handouts.

Online resources:

- JStor: <https://www.jstor.org>
- Library of Congress: <https://www.loc.gov>
- Tokyo National Museum / Image search: <http://webarchives.tnm.jp/imgsearch/>
- Google Arts and Culture project: <https://artsandculture.google.com>
- JAANUS: <http://www.aisf.or.jp/~jaanus/>
- The Kimono Closet: <https://kimonocloset.com>

### Section 4

#### 【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Quiz: 10%

Midterms: 30%

Finals: 45%

Class participation: 15%

	Type	Format
Quiz	in class	Circle or write the right answer (10~15 questions)
Midterm exam	take home	Write a comparative analysis or an essay (4~5 pages)
Final exam	in class + take home	Circle or write the right answer (10~15 questions) + Write a comparative analysis or essay (6~7 pages)
Class participation	continuous monitoring throughout the semester	Oral participation in discussion time and during the lectures + Write reading note cards about the reading materials