

Shinto

Section 1

Instructor	Dr. John A. Shultz, Associate Professor
Office/Building	Monday 1:15-2:25/Tuesday 10:45-12:15
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【Course Outline / Description】

Shinto is the religious tradition associated with the kami, the indigenous deities of Japan. It is said that there are eight million kami, ranging from the mundane and nearby to the extraordinary and distant. Throughout the past and today, Japanese have respected, implored, and feared these kami. While having strong connections to the natural world, Shinto has also manifested a deeply political and nationalistic character. Likewise, Shinto themes are heavily represented in Japanese popular culture, including anime, manga, and mascot characters. All these complexities make Shinto an intriguing and essential topic to understand Japanese history and society. This course will take a big picture approach to the subject, unlocking the intricacies and mysteries of the kami and of kami worship.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

- to articulate the meaning and role of kami and shrines in contemporary Japan and throughout history
- to ascertain the larger implications for culture and society raised by the myriad issues with respect to Shinto

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Schedule of Instruction		
	Schedule of Instruction	Work Outside of Classroom Activities
Lecture 1	Introduction	Review syllabus and expectations
Lecture 2	What are kami? What is Shinto?	Read: p.1-12 (all reading assignments in course packet)
Lecture 3	Shinto Mythology: Cosmology and Genesis	Read: p. 13-27
Lecture 4	Shinto Mythology: The Sun Goddess and Her Troublesome Brother	Read: p. 28-39
Lecture 5	Shinto Mythology: Okuninushi, Romantic Relations, and Love Shrines	Read: p. 39-54
Lecture 6	Shinto Mythology: The Heavenly Kami Colonize the Earth	Read: p. 55-67

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Lecture 7	The Intricacies of the Shinto Shrine: Types and Archetypes	Read: p. 68–78
Lecture 8	The Intricacies of the Shinto Shrine: Structures and Layout	Read: p. 79–99
Lecture 9	The Blessings of the Kami: This-Worldly Benefits	Read: 100–113
Lecture 10	Mini-Research Project #1: Shrine Profile (Preparation Class)	Complete preparatory homework assignment
Lecture 11	Mini-Research Project #1: Shrine Profile (Presentation/Discussion Class)	Complete mini-research project and prepare to share with classmates
Lecture 12	Matsuri: The Festivals of the Gods	Read: p. 114–130
Lecture 13	Shinto and Other Religious Traditions	Read: P. 131–142
Lecture 14	Inari: Japan's Favorite Kami	Read: p. 143–153
Lecture 15	Exam 1 Review	Review for exam. Create a list of questions to ask instructor
Lecture 16	Exam 1, plus a short lecture on scholarly kami	Review for exam
Lecture 17	Shinto and the State: Emperor Worship and Nationalism	Read: p. 154–167
Lecture 18	Shinto and the State: Yasukuni Shrine	Read: p. 168–179
Lecture 19	Shinto and the State: Film: “Emperor”	Prepare discussion questions
Lecture 20	Shinto and the State: Film: ““Emperor” (Discussion)	Prepare discussion questions
Lecture 21	Mountains and Kami: A Consideration of Mt. Fuji	Read: p. 180–194
Lecture 22	Mountains and Kami: Shugendo	Read: p. 195–205

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Lecture 23	Green Shinto: The Kami and Environmentalism	Read: p. 206–215
Lecture 24	Women and Shinto: Shaman, Miko, Good-Luck Daughters, and Brides	Read: p. 216–227
Lecture 25	Shinto and the Supernatural: Monsters and Ghosts	Read (from handouts): “The Supernatural and kami,” “Popular Momotaro story,” and “Kibutsuhiko and Ura”
Lecture 26	Shinto and Popular Culture: Introduction	Read: p. 228–238
Lecture 27	Mini-Research Project #2: Shinto in Pop Culture (Preparation Class)	Complete preparatory homework assignment
Lecture 28	Mini-Research Project #2: Shinto in Pop Culture (Presentation/Discussion Class)	Complete mini-research project and prepare to share with classmates
Lecture 29	Exam 2, plus short lecture	Review for exam.
Lecture 30	Shinto and Popular Culture: Film	Prepare discussion questions

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

All reading materials for each class will be provided by the instructor.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Exam 1 25%

Exam 2 25%

Practicum 25%

Homework/Quizzes 13%

Participation 12%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

2.5% will be deducted from the final grade for each unexcused absence