

Shinto

Section 1

Instructor/Title	John A. Shultz, PhD
Office/Building	6407 (ICC)

【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 manifest a deeply political and nationalistic character. Likewise, Shinto themes are heavily represented in Japanese popular culture, including anime, manga, and mascot characters. All of 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】

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
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	Mid-Term Exam Review	Review for exam. Create a list of questions to ask instructor
Lecture 16	Mid-Term Exam	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: "The Sun"	Prepare discussion questions
Lecture 20	Shinto and the State: Film: "The Sun" (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
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 Popular Culture: Introduction	Read: p. 228–238
Lecture 26	Mini-Research Project #2: Shinto in Pop Culture (Preparation Class)	Complete preparatory homework assignment
Lecture 27	Mini-Research Project #2: Shinto in Pop Culture (Presentation/Discussion Class)	Complete mini-research project and prepare to share with classmates
Lecture 28	Shinto and Popular Culture: Film	Prepare discussion questions
Lecture 29	Shinto and Popular Culture: Film Discussion	Prepare discussion questions
Lecture 30	Final Exam Review	Review for exam. Create a list of questions to ask instructor

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

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

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Mid-term Exam 33%

Final Exam 33%

Homework/Quizzes 22%

Participation 12%

Section 5

【Additional Information】

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