

Hirosaki University Summer Program 2021

About this Program

- Online classes made available on-demand
- Commencing June 1st
Ending July 30th
- Conducted on Microsoft Teams
- An exciting opportunity to experience study abroad at Hirosaki University online without worrying about time differences!

Program fees

Application and tuition fees are waived. This program is only for full-time students at our partner universities.

Number of participants

20 students in total.

Participants will receive notification regarding the results of their application through their home university.

Credit recognition

Participants must complete all 3 sections of the program. Successful participants will be issued a certificate and will earn 3 credits as follows:

- Japanese language : 1 credit
- Japanese Cultural History: 1 credit
- Contemporary Japanese Culture: 1 credit

Application deadline

Application documents should be submitted via email (to d-iec@hirosaki-u.ac.jp) by the application deadline. Applications must be submitted by coordinators of partner universities.

Application Deadline: **May 7th, 2021**

Program Contents

*Subject to change

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introducing yourself

「はじめまして。わたしは〇〇です。どうぞよろしくおねがいします」

Week 2: Introducing your university or college

「ここは、わたしの だいがく です。ここは、しよくどう です。」

Week 3: Introducing your town

「わたしは ひろさきに すんでいます。ひろさきは、りんごが ゆうめい です」

Week 4: Introducing your hobby

「わたしの しゅみは えいがを みること です。ハリーポッターが すきです」

Week 5: Talking about your field of study and your future plans

「わたしの せんもんは にほんご です。しょうらい、きょうしに なりたいです」

Week 6: Talking about your interests related to Japan

「わたしは きめつのやいばが すきです。「おに」に きょうみがあります」

Week 7-8: Presentation: Making your own unique self-introduction to appeal to your listeners.

Section 2: Japanese Cultural History

Instructor: Hannah Sawada, Associate Prof.,DIEC

Course Title: Art and Narrative from Northern Japan

Course Description:

Our studies this summer will take us on a series of virtual fieldtrips to explore the art forms and visual narratives which characterize the vibrant regional culture of Aomori Prefecture where Hirosaki University is located. We will start out with a trip to an archeological site dating back over 5500 years to view the intricately patterned pottery and numerous clay figurines that have been unearthed in the area. We will then examine a collection of items for daily use and ritual crafted by the indigenous Ainu people who inhabited this region until the 18th C alongside the Japanese Wajin who migrated from the south. Subsequent excursions in the castle city of Hirosaki will take us to the workshops of present-day lacquerers, indigo dyers and embroiderers whose exquisite crafts derive from medieval times, when the region came under the harsh rule of feudal lords. We will finally venture further afield to learn about the gigantic lantern floats painted in vivid colors which are pulled through a large number of the cities of this area to the accompaniment of drums, flutes, cymbals and loud shouts during the Neputa festivities held in the first week of August each year. Each of the art forms we encounter constitutes a narrative that provides us a glimpse into the lives and times of their creators who have rarely left any written records of their own. Students are invited to deepen their cultural understanding by practicing attentive observation and reflection for the duration of the course.

Course Outline:

Week one: Jomon artifacts found from archeological sites
Week two: Items for daily use and ritual, crafted by the Ainu
Week three: Tsugaru nuri - lacquer ware commissioned by feudal lords
Week four: Koginzashi - embroidery that spells resistance to oppression
Week five: Koginzashi continued - visits to the workshops of indigo dyers and embroiderers
Week six: The Neputa festival - historical roots and present-day celebrations
Week seven: The Neputa festival continued- lantern float artists and their narratives
Week eight: Munakata Shiko – world renowned woodblock printer inspired by the artforms and narratives of his native place, Aomori

Section 3: Contemporary Japanese Culture

Instructor: Suwa Jun'ichiro, Associate Prof., DIEC

Course Title: Aesthetics of Non-Western Platforming

Course Description:

Scholars have been paying increasing attention to the study of cultures from non-Western perspectives in recent years. Highlighting these cultural platforms is essential not only for mutual understanding in global society but also in order to seek alternatives for future generations. By taking case studies featuring aesthetics as their subject, this series of lectures aims to provide a different and inside view of Japanese culture and society. The first four lectures are grouped under the keyword 'becoming'. They will take examples of the aesthetics of 'kawaii', the matsuri festival and sustainable operation of local enterprises in contemporary cultural scenes and discuss them in terms of 'becoming' but not 'having' or 'possessing' property, disposition or resources. The latter four lectures will analyze the anime Spirited Away (2000) and the manga Kimetsu no Yaiba (2020) to exemplify how the reality of time-space is organized in terms of various aspects of 'otherworldliness', which reflects the worldview of contemporary Japanese culture. No prerequisite is required for this course. However, it should particularly benefit students with interest in the field of cultural anthropology, or more generally, the humanities and/or social sciences. Students must view the introductory video to receive instruction and guidance for this course.

Course Outline:

Week one: The idea of becoming
Week two: Aesthetics of kawaii
Week three: The matsuri machine
Week four: Becoming-Sustainable
Week five: The idea of otherworldliness
Week six: Spirited Away
Week seven: Kimetsu no Yaiba (1)
Week eight: Kimetsu no Yaiba (2)

Contact Information

Department of International Education and Collaboration

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