

Syllabus

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| Subject | Japanese Philosophy 2 | Credit | 2 |
| Instructor | Alexander Bennett, Ph.D. | | |
| Semester | Fall | Class Style | Weekly |
| Year | 2018 | Class Code | |
| Class Theme | Contemporary Japanese Philosophy | | |
| Key Words | Bushido, Martial Arts, Samurai, Japanese philosophy and thought | | |
| Class Purpose | Students taking this course will learn about the role of samurai Japanese history, the evolution of their ethos and cultural identity, and in what forms this culture can be seen and experienced today. | | |
| Diploma Policy | | | |
| Goal of Class | 1. Students can describe the history and significance of samurai ideals. 2. Students can present how samurai ideals relate to contemporary Japanese society. | | |
| Outline | <p>The most visible vestige of samurai culture remaining in Japan today is budo—the traditional martial arts. Considering the tremendous international popularity of martial arts such as judo and karate, budo is undoubtedly one of Japan's most successful cultural exports. People around the world practice these arts not only for self-defense or as sports, but also as a pursuit for spiritual development and enlightenment. This course will offer the student an insight into the history of the Japanese martial arts with actual hands-on experience. The first three lectures will be conducted in the classroom and the remainder will be conducted in the gymnasium where students will be given an introduction into the art of kendo. Each class will commence with a lecture on an important concept followed with a practical lesson. Schedule permitting, the students will be given the opportunity to sit in an actual grading examination. (For safety reasons student numbers will be limited to 25 people).</p> | | |
| Class Schedule | 1. Lecture: Introduction and expectations 2. Lecture: The various martial arts 3. Lecture: What is Kendo? 4. Lecture: 'Rei'. Practical: Various forms of etiquette 5. Lecture: 'Ashi-sabaki'. Practical: One-step attacks 6. Lecture: 'Ki-ken-tai-itchi'. Practical: Two-step attacks 7. Lecture: 'Zanshin'. Practical: Deflections 8. Lecture: 'Seme'. Practical: Reverse techniques 9. Lecture 'Shiai'. Practical: Evasive Techniques 10. Lecture: 'Keiko'. Practical: Parrying 11. Lecture: 'Heijoshin'. Practical: Advanced techniques 12. Lecture: 'Ningen Keisei'. Practical: Revision 13. Revision: A review of all the previously studied techniques with particular emphasis on the attainment of ki-ken-tai-itchi, or the unification of spirit, sword, and body 14. Revision: Same as 13 15. Exam and Tournament | | |

| Preparation for Study | | |
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| Each week, students will be given readings to complete. The weekly in-class quizzes will be based on these readings. Each reading will take approximately 1 hour. | | |
| Related Classes | | |
| Grading Criteria | | |
| Grades will be assessed on how well students are able to execute the various technical components taught in class. This will require diligent participation, so attitude and effort in class will be a significant portion of the final grade. | | |
| Attendance and participation | Percentage | Explanation of Grading Criteria |
| Attendance and participation | 30 | How eagerly students engage in the debates |
| Final Report | 30 | How well students complete final reports |
| Examination | 40 | How well students do on examination |
| Feedback | In-class marking | |
| Textbook | No textbook is required for this course. Applicable materials will be distributed by the tutor. | |
| References | | |
| Attendance Rule | Course Rules will be explained in the first lesson. | |
| Contact | alex@kansai-u.ac.jp | |
| Others | As the classes involve physical activity, students should wear suitable clothing for exercise. Be prepared for sweat and mental stimulation! | |