

Forms in Japanese Culture:
from tea ceremony to *anime*



maccha tea

<http://brian.hoffert.faculty.noctrl.edu/TEACHING/TeaCeremony.html>



Sen (aka Chihiro)

from *Spirited Away*

IDIS 198
Fall 2006
Tu & Th 2:20-3:30
PPHAC 233

Ellen Bearn
ecbearn@moravian.edu
office: Zinzendorf 102
office hours: Tu & Th after class, in classroom

Course description: Many traditional Japanese arts adhere to exact and specific methods of performance or production. There are many art forms that have been performed or produced in much the same way for hundreds of years. The tea ceremony has a specific form of preparation. In kabuki theater there is a prescribed form for a pose. Flower arranging has formal rules to follow. Japanese animation has roots in the woodblock print. What is the meaning of these forms in modern or post-modern Japan? What conflicts arise from the difference in understanding between traditionalists and modernists? How does contemporary Japan reconcile the conflict between their traditional cultural forms and modern western society? How are those different cultures melded together in contemporary Japanese society?

Textbooks: there are five required textbooks, available at the college bookstore:

- 1) *Japanese aesthetics and culture: a reader*, Nancy G. Hume, ed. SUNY Press. 1995. ISBN 0791424006.
- 2) *The book of tea* (1906), by Kakuzo Okakura. Dover. 1964. ISBN 0486200701.
- 3) *In praise of shadows* (1933), by Junichiro Tanizaki. Leete's Island Books. 1988. ISBN 0918172020.
- 4) *How to look at Japanese art*, by Stephen Addiss. Harry N. Abrams. 1996. ISBN 0810926407.

5) *The worlds of Japanese popular culture: gender, shifting boundaries and global cultures*, Dolores Martinez, ed. Cambridge University Press. 1998. ISBN 0521637295

Blackboard: I will use Blackboard to post detailed course schedules, reading assignments not in the books, web sites, and other information, and also to communicate with you by email. You must register as a student for this course, IDIS 198, fall 2006. The access code to enroll is “anime” (lower case). Please enter the email address you actually use; I expect to communicate with the entire class using Blackboard’s email list, and it is your responsibility to check your email for assignments, announcements, changes, etc.

Course objective: To become familiar with some of the basic artistic and cultural forms of expression in literature, art, tea ceremony, and animation (to name a few), and to see what the modern interpretations are in Japan today. At the end of the course, you will have an overview of contemporary Japan’s views of its traditional artistic forms of expression. You will have a chance to select two areas of interest to investigate, one in a class presentation, and one in a paper. This course offers you a chance to compare your personal interests in arts and culture to what’s going on in Japan in similar areas.

Course requirements:

- 1) Register for this course on Blackboard, and check your email.
- 2) Readings: keep up with the reading assignments. I will post monthly assignment schedules on Blackboard.
- 3) Quizzes: there will be ten short quizzes on the readings; you can drop 2 of the 10 and will be graded on 8. The quiz schedule is listed in the course schedule, indicated by “Q.” If you miss a quiz, you’ll get a zero. No make ups.
- 4) Papers: there will be one 5-to-8 page paper, including a first draft as well as the final paper. The purpose of the draft is to give you a chance to improve your writing style and the organization of your ideas. Even though you have a chance to improve your paper, think of the first draft as a final paper, rather than something you dash off. I’m looking for a paper and not an outline or notes. There will be a list of topics as the due date approaches.
- 5) Presentation: each student will give a 10-15 minute presentation; it can be a demonstration, a presentation with images, or a critique on a topic relating to Japanese culture. You will need to get my approval on your topic. I can point you in the right direction as your date approaches. You are also to turn in a 2-3-page written summary of the presentation. Topics might include: “What’s currently the best-selling novel in Japan?”; “What is happening in flower arranging today?”; “How are tattoos viewed in Japan?” A presentation schedule will be made in September.
- 6) Final exam at the end of the semester.
- 7) Attendance: I do not take attendance, but since part of your grade depends on class participation, attendance matters. I realize that you may be absent from time to time; let me know by email if you know you will be missing a class.

This course will include lots of discussion, about topics related to the readings as well as those that interest you. Bring questions, reactions, comments to class.

Grading:

reading assignments & class discussion:	20%
quizzes on reading assignments:	20%
class presentation & written summary:	20%
one 5-8 page paper, draft and final:	20%
final exam:	20%

Detailed schedules will be posted in Blackboard; rough outline (subject to change):

Tuesday	Thursday
1) August 29 Intro to course	2) August 31 “gross national cool” article http://www.japansociety.org/web_docs/grossnationalcool.pdf
3) September 5 Hume ch.1, Rimer	4) September 7 Q1 Hume ch.2, Keene
5) September 12 Hume ch.4, Parkes	6) September 14 Addiss ch.1
7) September 19 Q2 Book of Tea	8) September 21 Book of Tea
9) September 26 In Praise of Shadows	10) September 28 Q3 In Praise of Shadows
11) October 3 Hume ch.5	12) October 5 Q4 Hume ch.11
October 10 no class Fall recess	13) October 12 Q5 Hume ch.6
14) October 17 Hume ch.6	15) October 19; paper drafts due Addiss ch.3
16) October 24 Q6 Martinez intro	17) October 26 Martinez ch1
18) October 31 Addiss ch.5	19) November 2 papers due
20) November 7 Q7 Martinez ch.2	21) November 9 Martinez ch.3; Akira clips
22) November 14 Martinez ch.4	23) November 16 Q8 Martinez ch5
24) November 21 clips	November 23 no class Thanksgiving
25) November 28 Q9 Martinez ch.8	26) November 30 Martinez ch.10
27) December 5 Q10 Tale of the Bamboo Cutter	28) December 7 Review/TBA