



HIROSAKI
UNIVERSITY



Autumn-Winter Online Program 2021

An exciting opportunity to experience study abroad at Hirosaki University online without worrying about time differences!

[About this Program]

- Online classes made available on-demand
- Commencing **19th October** - Ending **13th December**
- Conducted in **English**
- Only for full-time students at our partner universities

[Program fees]

Application and tuition fees are waived.

[Number of participants]

20 students in total.

[Credit recognition]

Participants must complete all 3 sections of the program.

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

[Before applying]

Students should make certain that:

- They can use **Microsoft teams** in their country
- Their Japanese level is **elementary**
- Their English level is high enough for them to understand lectures given in English, and submit their assignments in English

[Apply]

Applications must be submitted by coordinators of partner universities. We will not receive any applications from students directly. Application documents should be submitted via email.

Deadline : 4th October 2021

Section 1: Japanese Language

Instructor: Takahashi Chiyo, Assistant Prof., DIEC

Level: Elementary (Geared to students who have learned Hiragana and Katakana, introductory grammar and greetings)

Aim of Course

To learn how to make an unforgettable self-introduction in Japanese!

Course Description

Students will watch mini-videos (5min.-10min.) of Japanese students conversing. They will learn the vocabulary, grammar or expressions needed to introduce themselves and the things around them.

They will be given an assignment each lesson to make a video or mp3. of their own speech or conversation with a partner online (and sometimes additional written work such as script exercises, word lists or grammar exercises.) They will also have the chance to get to know Japanese students attending Hirosaki-university, and discuss topics of common interest.

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、しょくどうです。」

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: A short survey of the cultural history of Tsugaru

Course Description

This course will take us on a series of virtual fieldtrips to explore the history that has shaped the vibrant regional culture of Tsugaru in Northern Japan, where Hirosaki University is located.

We will start out by visiting an archeological site dating back over 5500 years to walk through the remains of a settlement that was home to people of the Jomon era, who were hunters and gatherers. Then by making stops at sites that were inhabited in subsequent eras, we will witness the societal changes that took place after the introduction of rice cultivation. In order to learn more about life in medieval times, we will explore Hirosaki castle and the castle city surrounding it, where samurai dwellings still stand.

We will deepen our understanding of some of the beliefs that underpin spiritual practices which live on in the area by experiencing zazen at a temple and spending time at a Jizoson where shamans mediate between the living and the dead. We will then savor the music and literary narratives that have emerged from this cultural climate and finally consider the impact of modernization and the recreation of tradition that continues to the present.

Course Outline

Week one: Jomon culture - Sannai Maruyama site

Week two: Societal changes subsequent to rice cultivation -

Takayashikidate settlement, Namioka and Horikoshi Castle ruins

Week three: Life in Medieval times - Hirosaki Castle

Week four: The making of a castle city – Samurai dwellings and Zenringai Temple area

Week five: Beliefs – Zazen experience and Sai no Kawara Jizo son

Week six: Music – the Tsugaru Shamisen

Week Seven: Literary narratives

Week Eight: Modernization and the recreation of cultural traditions discussed at Hirodai Café

(This schedule is subject to change, due to circumstances)

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)