



SYLLABUS   
College of Science and Mathematics  
Department of Ecology, Evolution, & Organismal Biology

ENVS 4490 – Earth Science & Culture of Japan

Summer 2024– 3 credits

# Course Information

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Class meeting time: The course will have a minimum of two pre-departure meetings. Students will meet with the professors each morning while in country for a lesson of ~1 hour about the day’s activities. There will also be a 1-hour post trip briefing.

Modality and Location: *Face to Face course, meetings in SC-245*  
*Syllabus is posted in D2L*

# Instructor Information

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Name: Dan Ferreira and Akiko Davis

Email: [Dferreira@kennesaw.edu](mailto:Dferreira@kennesaw.edu) and [Adavi368@kennesaw.edu](mailto:Adavi368@kennesaw.edu)   
Office Location: SC-339 and PS-225B

Office phone: (470)578-5011 and (470)578-6366

Office Hours: N/A  
Preferred method of communication: Email

# Course Description

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This course has no pre-requisites. Earth Science and Culture of Japan is a Study Abroad course where students will spend two weeks exploring multiple facets of Japan. Students will learn how volcanism and plate tectonics have shaped Japan’s natural history by hiking a live volcano and visiting some of Japan’s many geothermal hot springs. Students will also visit Fukushima Prefecture and learn about the meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power plant in 2011 and how the lingering consequences of that disaster have affected the people living in the region. While traveling in Japan, students will explore many facets of Japanese culture and history through visits to Japanese museums, castles, shrines, temples, and by watching a play at a Kabuki theater.

# Course Materials

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Required Texts: N/A, readings and videos will be posted on D2L

Recommended Texts: N/A, readings and videos will be posted on D2L

Technology requirements: Computer with internet access

# Learning Outcomes

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1) Students will be able to explain the role of plate tectonics in the formation of environmental phenomena such as hot springs, volcanoes, and earthquakes.  
  
2) Students will be able to explain the role of nuclear power in Japan's energy infrastructure, how the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant melted down, and the long term environmental impacts of that meltdown.  
  
3) Students will be able to discuss the two major Japanese religions, Shintoism and Buddhism, and their impact on Japanese culture.  
  
4) Students will be able to discuss the history of Japan, especially the Edo time period when Japan first opened itself to the influences of Western culture*.*

# Course Requirements and Assignments

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Students will be graded based on three main assignments: A pre-trip quiz based on assigned readings, a journal cataloguing their experiences and how each experience educated them about Earth science, Japanese history, and/or Japanese culture, and a post-trip quiz based on what they have added to their knowledge about those same topics. Students will receive feedback on their grade on the pre-trip quiz immediately after it is graded automatically on D2L. Students will receive feedback on their journals within one week of the due date. Students will receive feedback on the post-trip quiz immediately after it is graded automatically on D2L. Students will receive feedback on their participation during pre-trip briefings or as the instructors feel it is needed while participating in activities in-country.

*Pre-trip Quiz*: Students will be assigned readings about the fundamentals of plate tectonics and key aspects of Japanese culture and history. These readings will serve two purposes: to provide students with a baseline knowledge that will allow them to interpret the material they will learn on the trip and to prepare students to experience a foreign culture with very different behavioral and cultural norms. After reading the assigned material, students will complete an online quiz to ensure that they have sufficiently mastered the material from the reading assignments.

*Journal*: Students will keep a journal about their experiences each day of the trip (excluding travel days – Days 1, 6, 11, and 15). Each journal entry should include a description of the location(s) visited (20% of the grade), what the student did there (20% of the grade), and how the experience enlightened them about Earth science, Japanese culture, and/or Japanese history (40% of the grade). The final 20% of the grade will be based on the neatness and organization of the journal.

*Post-trip Quiz*: At the conclusion of the trip students will be given a second quiz that will test how their knowledge of Earth science, Japanese culture, and Japanese history has improved based on their experiences during the trip. The questions will be more targeted than the ones in the pre-trip quiz and will directly measure their ability to apply what they have learned over the course of the two weeks in-country.

*Active participation*: Students will be expected to actively participate and engage with all activities for the duration of the two weeks in Japan. Active engagement can be demonstrated through providing your full attention during planned activities (i.e. not goofing off on your cell phone, chatting about unrelated topics, etc.), asking questions that demonstrate your engagement with the activity, tying the material from one activity in with material learned during a previous activity, etc.

# Evaluation and Grading Policies

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| Pre-trip quiz: 15%  Journal: 40%  Post-trip quiz: 25%  Active participation: 20% | A  B  C  D  F | = 90 - 100  = 80 - 89  = 70 - 79  = 60 - 69  = 59 and below |

# Course Policies

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I want everyone to feel comfortable contributing their thoughts and ideas. In order to do that, we need an atmosphere of mutual respect between all members of the class. If you have questions about any of these policies or have special circumstances I should know about, please feel free to let me know. [KSU and Board of Regents policies can be found here](https://cia.kennesaw.edu/instructional-resources/syllabus-policy.php). [Additional Student Resources can be found here](https://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php).

*Attendance*: Students are solely responsible for managing their enrollment status in a class; nonattendance does not constitute a withdrawal.

*Academic Honesty*: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs. The Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic malicious/intentional misuses of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the Student Conduct and Academic Integrity department, which includes either an “Informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement

*Accommodations:* Any student with a documented disability or medical condition needing academic accommodations of class-related activities or schedules must contact the instructor immediately. Written verification from the [KSU Student Disability Services](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/welcome.html) is required. No requirements exist that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University documentation. All discussions will remain confidential.Course requirements will not be waived, but accommodations will be made, when appropriate, to assist you to meet the requirements.

# Institutional Policies

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[Federal, BOR, & KSU Course Syllabus Policies](http://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/federal_bor_ksu_student_policies.php)

[Student Resources](https://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php)  
  
[Academic Integrity Statement](http://scai.kennesaw.edu/codes.php)

# KSU Student Resources

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This link contains information on help and resources available to students: [KSU Student Resources for Course Syllabus](https://curriculum.kennesaw.edu/resources/ksu_student_resources_for_course_syllabus.php)

# Course Schedule

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**Itinerary**

Day 0 (Sunday, 5/12): Depart Atlanta.

Day 1 (Mon, 5/13): Arrive in Japan, take bus from Haneda Airport to hotel in Tokyo.

Day 2 (Tues, 5/14): Multiple activities at Shinjuku ([Samurai Museum](http://www.samuraimuseum.jp/en/), [Tokyo Metropolitan Government Observation Deck](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3011_tocho.html)) and [Meiji Shrine](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3002.html). *Optional evening trip* *with Dr. Ferreira to Dagashi bar in Ebisu.*

Day 3 (Weds, 5/15): Trip to Ueno Park ([Tokyo National Museum](https://www.tnm.jp/?lang=en), [Ueno Zoo](https://www.tokyo-zoo.net/english/ueno/main.html)) and Asakusa ([Asakusa Shinto Shrine](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3004.html), [Senso-ji Buddhist temple](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3001.html), [5 Story Pagoda](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e4101.html)). *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to Coco Curry Ichibanya.*

Day 4 (Thurs, 5/16): Explore [Tsukiji Fish Market](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g1066444-d315477-Reviews-The_Tsukiji_Market-Chuo_Tokyo_Tokyo_Prefecture_Kanto.html), see one act of a Kabuki play at the [Kabukiza Theater](https://www.kabukiweb.net/), and visit the [Imperial Gardens](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3018.html). *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to Akihabara and Ichiran Ramen.*

Day 5 (Fri, 5/17): Day trip to [Hakone](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e5200.html). See Mount Fuji and [Lake Ashi](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e5201.html).

Day 6 (Sat, 5/18): Take Shinkansen from Tokyo Station to Hakodate Station on Hokkaido. Check into hotel in Hakodate. *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to* [*top of Mount Hakodate*](https://www.hakodate.travel/en/top7/night-view) *via tram.*

Day 7 (Sun, 5/19): Bus ride to hike [Mount Esan (active volcano)](https://www.hakodate.travel/en/sightseeing_spots/nature/mt-esan). *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to* [*cruise Hakodate Bay*](https://www.hakodate-factory.com/bluemoon/)*.*

Day 8 (Mon, 5/20): Visit [Morning Market](https://www.hakodate.travel/en/top7/morning-market), walking tour of [historical churches in Motomachi](https://www.hakodate.travel/en/top7/motomachi). Enjoy famous Hakodate melon bread. Visit [hot springs in Yunokawa](http://hakodate-yunokawa.jp/lan/en.html). *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to* [*Bentenzushi*](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g298151-d8677540-Reviews-Bentenzushi-Hakodate_Hokkaido.html)*.*

Day 9 (Tues, 5/21): Take Shinkansen from Hakodate to Fukushima City. Visit [Environmental Creation Centre](http://www.pref.fukushima.lg.jp/site/portal-english/en02-05.html) in Miharu to learn about Fukushima Daiichi NPP disaster. Check into hotel in Fukushima City.

Day 10 (Weds, 5/22): Tour Iitate Village. Learn about impacts of radioactive fallout on soil. Learn about impacts of evacuation on farmers and recovery efforts underway. Service project to help farmers with harvesting vegetables and other things they might need help with. *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to* [*Fukushima Tourist Products Center*](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g298244-d1383997-Reviews-Fukushima_Prefecture_Tourist_Product_Center-Fukushima_Fukushima_Prefecture_Tohoku.html) *to shop for souvenirs.*

Day 11 (Thurs, 5/23): Take Shinkansen from Fukushima City to Kyoto. Check into hotel in Kyoto. *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to* [*Nishiki Market*](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3931.html) *and* [*Pokemon Center Kyoto*](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g298564-d10724091-Reviews-Pokemon_Center_Kyoto-Kyoto_Kyoto_Prefecture_Kinki.html)*.*

Day 12 (Fri, 5/24): Visit [Kiyomizu Temple](https://www.kiyomizudera.or.jp/en/), [Yasaka Shrine](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3903.html), and [International Manga Museum](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3946.html). *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to Kyoto Station rooftop garden and dinner at Ippudo Ramen.*

Day 13 (Sat, 5/25): Visit [Nijo Castle](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3918.html) and Imperial Palace. Half of the students will go to the [Fushimi Inari Shrine](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3915.html) and [Fushimi Sake District](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3938.html). The other half of students will visit the zen garden at the [Ryoan-ji Buddhist Temple](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3909.html) and golden pavilion at the [Kinkaku-ji Temple](https://www.japan-guide.com/e/e3908.html).

Day 14 (Sun, 5/26): Take shinkansen from Kyoto to Tokyo. Free day to explore Tokyo, visit any sites you didn’t get to see, complete any last minute shopping. Check into hotel near Haneda Airport. *Optional evening trip with Dr. Ferreira to Manekineko Karaoke Bar.*

Day 15 (Mon, 5/27): Take Haneda Airport Limousine Bus to Haneda Airport. Depart Japan.