The Crossroads of Japan

May 10 - 23, 2015

This study abroad program is coordinated by the Northern Illinois University Study Abroad Office (SAO), in cooperation with the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of History, and the Japan Center for Michigan Universities.

The Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU) is a product of the strong sister-state relationship between the State of Michigan and Shiga Prefecture. It is located on the shore of Lake Biwa in the City of Hikone, Shiga Prefecture, Japan. The JCMU programs are dedicated to building relationships between Japanese, Americans, and other nationalities through active learning and participation in language, culture, family life and society. JCMU has been welcoming students of all majors since 1989.

PROGRAM DATES: The program will officially begin on Sunday, May 10, 2015 and will end on Saturday, May 23, 2015. Students will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements in order to arrive in Hikone, Japan on Sunday, May 10, 2015. The nearest international airport is Nagoya, followed by Kansai.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Presidential Teaching Professor E. Taylor Atkins, whose expertise is in modern Japanese and Korean history, has taught at NIU since 1997. His primary interests are cultural history, ethnomusicology, and colonialism. For more information go to www.niu.edu/etatkins.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW/OBJECTIVES: This travel-oriented, two-week study abroad program utilizes the rich resources of this important region to achieve a broad understanding of 1000 years of Japanese history (ca. 600-1600). Studying history on the ground where it occurred enables us to experience firsthand the natural environment and the material culture produced by its inhabitants, providing deeper understanding than documents alone can provide.

Objectives:

• To reach a broad understanding of premodern Japanese history through visiting local historical sites in Shiga.
• To develop skills of historical analysis by examining and discussing a variety of sources (primary documents in translation and material culture) and some scholarship.
• To pursue intellectual interests and individual research relevant to each student’s course of study.
• To have an amazing, transformative experience in a foreign country, away from major population centers, while enjoying gorgeous wooded mountains and stunning lake views.
PROGRAM SITE: The area around Lake Biwa traditionally known as Ōminokuni (modern-day Shiga prefecture) is one of the most historically, economically, and culturally significant regions in Japan.

HIGHLIGHTS: If you are fascinated by violence, weaponry, and military history, Ōmi is a good place to visit. We will tour an original 17th century castle, visit an 18th century ninja dwelling, walk through a fishing village that harbored medieval pirates, and trek to the mountain top temple know for the ferocity of its monastic army.

PROGRAM AUDIENCE: No background in Japanese language or history is required to participate. Students from all programs of study are welcome. Space is limited and qualified applicants will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis. The program is open to NIU undergraduates and graduate-level students and non-NIU students.

Although the subject matter and approach will be historical and inquiry-based, the specific topics and site visits selected are attractive and useful to students from several different majors and disciplines.

- Interactions between the natural environment and humans, for majors in the natural sciences and environmental studies.
- Sacred spaces and religious art and architecture, for humanities and arts majors.
- Commerce, agriculture, and manufacturing for economics and business majors.
- Governance, urban planning, and diplomacy, for social science majors.

INSTRUCTION METHOD: In this class we will spend an awful lot of time looking at “stuff,” by which I mean natural and human-made objects. But the objective is to look at this stuff with an inquiring and analytical mind, not just with the eyes. For instance, you will see a big lake and lots of mountains. Ask yourself, how would living in a mountainous lake environment enable or constrict particular paths of human development? What was possible and impossible? How did human activity affect lake country, and vice versa? Likewise, when you see a tool, a mode of transport, a castle, or an article of clothing, ask yourself, who made this, from what sorts of materials, gathered by whom, for whose consumption and purpose? The active interrogation of the things we see is how we know, understand, and rethink the past. None of these natural or manufactured items will speak for themselves. But if we observe, ask, ponder discuss, and listen, they may yield answers anyway.

To get everyone into this habit, bring to each day’s lesson a question to which you would like to have an answer by the end of the day. Each student will share her/his question with the class at the beginning of the day, and we will collectively pursue possible answers through thoughtful observation of the sites we visit and the natural and made environments we encounter. Be creative and ambitious with your questions; ideally, they will be informed by your assigned readings, the ones that your sensei (instructor) cannot easily answer himself. Your questions will be part of your assessment (on a scale of “very intriguing” to “sorta lame”) for the course. At the end of the program, each student will do a short presentation on a relevant subject of person interest, using evidence from our site visits, the JCMU library, and web-based library resources.
available through your home institutions. Written reports and slideshows must be submitted to me by e-mail by June 15.

PROGRAM ACADEMIC CREDIT: For satisfactory participation in the program, participants will receive 3 semester hours of credit in one of the following NIU courses.

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<th>UNDERGRADUATE CREDIT:</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 350  Japan to 1600</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Survey of ancient and medieval Japanese civilization. Beginnings of the imperial institution, early influences from the Asian Continent, political transformations from aristocratic to warrior rule, and the development of what is now known as “Japanese tradition.”</td>
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<tr>
<th>GRADUATE CREDIT:</th>
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<tr>
<td>HIST 590J Special Topics in History: Asian</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Selected themes or problems. Topics announced. Each lettered topic may be repeated to a maximum of 9 semester hours when subject varies; however, a maximum of 9 additional semester hours of HIST 598 may be counted toward the M.A. program in history, and a maximum of 9 additional semester hours may be counted toward the Ph.D. program in history.</td>
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HONORS CREDIT: Qualified undergraduate students may also elect to receive Honors credit for any study abroad course(s) with the approval of the NIU faculty or instructor responsible for the course. For more information please contact the University Honors Office.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION PROCEDURES: The program is open to undergraduate students who meet the NIU general admission requirements. Currently enrolled students must meet College of Liberal Arts and Sciences course GPA requirements. Students must be in good academic and disciplinary standing at the time of application. Students who are on academic or disciplinary probation are not eligible to participate in study abroad programs. Applicants must participate in the entire program and satisfy NIU undergraduate or graduate admission and course requirements.

Students cannot have any encumbrances against their NIU records. Any encumbrances placed on a student’s records by NIU (i.e., the Graduate School, Undergraduate Admissions, Bursar’s Office, Accounts Receivable, Registration and Records, Health Services, Parking Services, etc.) must be cleared before a student is granted admission to a study abroad program.

For undergraduate students to be admitted to the program, an applicant’s official transcript must be on file in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript; the Study Abroad Office will make this request on behalf of the applicant. Students who want to participate in the program and earn academic credit from NIU who have not previously enrolled at NIU, or who are not currently enrolled at NIU, should ask the Registrar at their institution to forward an
official transcript as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Office. (Student-issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.) Questions relating to the admission requirements or transcripts should be directed to the Study Abroad Office.

Students who desire to obtain graduate credit must either be admitted to a graduate program within the NIU Graduate School, or be admitted to the status of a "student-at-large" (SAL) within NIU’s Graduate School. For students to be admitted to the program for graduate credit, the applicant's official transcript must be on file in the NIU SAO. Students who are currently enrolled at NIU, or who have previously enrolled at NIU, do not need to request an official transcript. However, students who will participate in the program in order to earn academic credit as an SAL (students who have not currently enrolled, nor are previously enrolled at NIU) must provide a transcript from the baccalaureate institution and from any institution at which graduate credit has been earned. This document must be provided to the SAO before a student can be admitted as an SAL to the program. (Student issued transcripts and photocopies are not acceptable.)

APPLICATION: Click (link to program – provided by SAO) or visit the NIU Study Abroad Office website at [https://niu.studioabroad.com](https://niu.studioabroad.com) (and search for “(program country)” or the (program name) to begin the online application process for this program. The online process provides guidance on requesting information, advising, or applying for the program. Please note that at the time of application, applicants will be expected to submit a signature verification form and copy of their ID to the Study Abroad Office. More detailed instructions can be found on the [https://niu.studioabroad.com](https://niu.studioabroad.com) website or by contacting the Study Abroad Office at (815) 753-0700 or [niuabroad@niu.edu](mailto:niuabroad@niu.edu).

$200 APPLICATION FEE/DEPOSIT: A $200 application fee/deposit is required of all applicants. The $200 is broken down into $100 for the non-refundable application fee and $100 for a program deposit. Both the application fee and the deposit will be applied to the total balance of the program cost. The $100 deposit is refundable only if the participant withdraws prior to the withdrawal deadline indicated on the program materials or for medical reasons verified by a physician if the withdrawal takes place after the withdrawal deadline. The $200 application fee/deposit will be charged to NIU students' NIU Bursar's account. (Checks and money orders cannot be accepted from NIU students.) Non-NIU students must submit a check or money order in the amount of $200. More detailed instructions can be found on the website.

IMPORTANT – All applications will be categorized as "Pending – No Deposit" until the $200 application fee/deposit has been received (or, in the case of non-NIU students, once a check has been received). The Study Abroad Office will not consider or process applications without the $200 application fee/deposit. In order to reserve your place in the program you must submit the $200 deposit within 14 days of application. After 14 days applications without a deposit will be inactivated.

AIR TRANSPORTATION: Individuals will be responsible for making their own air travel arrangements between the U.S. and Nagoya (or Kansai or Narita) and for purchasing their tickets from a travel agent or airline of their choice. (Travel insurance is recommended.) Participants should keep in mind that in order to arrive in St. Hikone in time for the official beginning of the program, they should plan to depart the U.S. no later than Saturday, May 16, 2015.

For information regarding airfares and airlines students may wish to check-out additional airfare sites on the Internet.

Important - The Study Abroad Office advises all participants that flight reservations for this program should not be booked until:

   a. After the February 13 application deadline
      AND
   b. The SAO has accepted the minimum number of participants needed to operate this program.

This advisory is given so that participants do not find themselves financially responsible for airline tickets should it be necessary to cancel the program. (See section entitled, CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM)

LAND TRANSPORTATION: For program-related travel the group will travel by train and various forms of public transportation. This transportation is provided as part of the NIU program cost. (See the Tentative Daily Schedule for specific details regarding other program-related transportation.)

PASSPORT: --IMPORTANT--All participants are required to possess a valid passport by March 1, 2015. Important Note: U.S. passports must be valid SIX months beyond the intended stay overseas. Individuals who do not currently possess a valid passport should apply for one immediately upon acceptance into the program. After March 1, applicants may need to request expedited services or apply in person at the Chicago Passport Agency. If applicants are not within the Chicago area, they must apply at the nearest passport agency.) Information on acquiring a U.S. passport is available at the U.S. State Department’s website: http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html. Foreign passport holders may need special visas for travel and are responsible for obtaining all necessary visas.

VISA: A valid passport is required prior to March 1. Japan does not require a visa from US citizens for staying less than three months.
PASSPORT AND ISIC PHOTOS: You may have your passport and/or ISIC photo(s) taken in the NIU Study Abroad Office. Photos are $3.00 for the first photo and $2.00 for each photo after that. After the first two photos, photos must be purchased in multiples of two. Photos are usually developed while you wait. Study Abroad Office hours are 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (closed over the lunch hour) and 1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS/VACCINATIONS: Travelers entering Japan are not required to have any particular vaccinations. However, if you have questions on this matter you can contact the NIU University Health Service Travel Clinic for information on what immunizations are required. The Travel Clinic can administer most immunizations to currently enrolled NIU students. Most immunizations require a fee. Consult the Travel Clinic several months before you travel.

NIU MAJOR MEDICAL INSURANCE: NIU Student health insurance is required for participation in an NIU study abroad program. Participants not currently enrolled in the NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan will be enrolled by the Study Abroad Office. The NIU Major Medical Insurance Plan has a $250 deductible clause. Students requiring medical attention will be expected to pay any related costs and then file a claim with the NIU Student Insurance Office after returning to the States. Receipts showing payment for all medical expenses are required for reimbursement.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT I.D. CARD: The ISIC card is provided as part of the program cost. The I.D. card can provide discount on international airfare and other travel. Students will receive an application and instructions for obtaining this card when accepted into the program. The International Student Identity Card also includes a limited health and accident insurance policy which is only valid outside the U.S. Students will have to pay bills at the time of treatment and will be reimbursed later.

NIU PROGRAM COST: The program cost pays for the following cost related services:

1) Accommodations in the JCMU Residence Hall apartments
2) Program-related transportation
3) Admission fees to cultural and historical sites visited as part of the daily schedule
4) International Student I.D. Card (ISIC)
5) NIU undergraduate credit
6) NIU major medical insurance

PROGRAM COST: $2,205

All prices quoted are subject to change. The information contained in the program documents and forms is presented in good faith and is believed to be correct as of the date presented. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to amend, modify, revise, or delete any information appearing in these documents, including but not limited to the cost of the program.
Non-NIU students should consult with their home institutions regarding additional costs that may apply to study abroad. Non-NIU students are responsible for any study abroad charges imposed by their home institution.

**ADDITIONAL COSTS TO PARTICIPANTS:**

- Airfare
- Cost of acquiring a passport (approximately $130, including 2 passport pictures).
- Passport size photos.
- Additional costs associated with obtaining a visa for non-U.S. passport holders.
- Immunization fees (*if immunizations are required*)
- $40 Undergraduate application fee for non-NIU undergraduate students.
- Independent travel and visa costs associated with independent travel.
- Expenses for free-time pursuits.
- Expenses and purchases of a personal nature. Participants should consider a per diem allowance of 30 USD.

**FINANCIAL AID:** As a participant in a study abroad program through NIU, applicants may be eligible for: Pell Grant, SEOG, Perkins Loan, PLUS Loan, Subsidized or Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, MAP Award or your privately awarded scholarship with consent of awarding organization. Please contact Pamela Rosenberg, International Programs Business Manager, Williston Hall 407, (815) 753-9530, prosenberg@niu.edu for more information.

**WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PROGRAM:** Applicants withdrawing from the program after February 13, 2015 will not be refunded the $200 program deposit.

Applicants withdrawing from the program after this date will also be held accountable for any funds obligated to overseas vendors and agents on the applicant’s behalf. This provision is in effect even if the applicant has not submitted the $200 deposit or additional payments, and if the applicant is applying for financial aid.

If the applicant must withdraw after February 13, 2015 for medical reasons, funds obligated on their behalf to overseas vendors can only be refunded if:

a. The request is submitted to the Study Abroad Office in writing and accompanied by a signed statement stating that travel is not advised from a physician on the physician’s letterhead; **and**

b. NIU is able to obtain refunds from overseas vendors and agents.

**CANCELLATION OF THE PROGRAM:** The Study Abroad Office reserves the right to cancel this program if the minimum required enrollment is not attained. If, prior to the commencement of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Japan, all applicants will be notified promptly of the warning and the possibility of cancellation of the program. If, during the course of the program, a U.S. State Department Travel Warning is issued for Japan, students will be promptly notified of the warning and the advisability of canceling the program.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ALTER OR CANCEL THIS PROGRAM AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY!
Course Syllabus

The Crossroads of Japan

May 10 – 23, 2015

Program Director: E. Taylor Atkins
Department of History

Required Text:
Karl Friday, ed., Japan Emerging: Premodern History to 1850
“Crossroads of Japan” course reader

Participation:
An essential part of your grade will be my assessment of your citizenship, attitude, effort, and level of engagement (what are usually called “dispositions” in professional education). I didn't bring you to Japan to make a Jackass movie. I want you to have fun, I really do, but not at the expense of the life-changing educational experience you will likely have, nor of your classmates' and my sanity. If “fun” for you is limited to drinking, debauchery, and hooking up, then you need to stay home.

Whether you like it or not, when you are in another country you bear what is called in critical race studies the “burden of representation.” That means that folks will often generalize about others like you, based on what they observe in your demeanor and conduct. It may not be fair, but people who have endured discrimination, prejudice, and oppression for any variety of reasons bear this burden every day, so it just is.

People who do stupid things usually convince themselves that they are liberty to do them because such actions don’t really affect anyone else. But they are usually wrong about that, which is what makes the things stupid. If you act a fool, it will have a negative impact on all of us, and you will earn a fool’s grade as a consequence.

Good news is, it’s very easy to get 100% credit in this category. Just do you work and behave like a decent human being. You may be surprised by how fun that can be.
## TENTATIVE DAILY SCHEDULE

| May 10 | Introduction and historical overview  
| • *Japan Emerging*, Chapters 2, 3, and 4. |
| May 11 | Court (and Koreans) by the Lake  
| • Selections from *Nihon shoki* and *Man’yōshū*  
| • *Japan Emerging*, Chapters 9 and 10. |
| May 12 | The “Lake Country” Environment and Its People  
| • Site visit to Lake Biwa Museum, Kasatsu  
| • Selections from Lake Biwa: Interactions Between Nature and People  
| • *Eight Views of Ōmi (Ōmi hakkei)* |
| May 13 | Shintō and Buddhism  
| • Site visits to shrines and temples in Hikone (Ōhora Benzaiten, Ryōtanji, Shiga Prefecture Gokoku Jinja)  
| • *Japan Emerging*, Chapters 7 and 13. |
| May 14 | People of the Lake  
| • Site visit to Katata  
| • Selections from *Lake Biwa: Interactions Between Nature and People* |
| May 15 | Living on/off the Land  
| • Guest lecture by Dr. Kasubuchi Hiroaki, Hikone  
| • *Japan Emerging*, Chapters 15, 16, and 26 |
| May 16 | The Teeth and Claws of the Buddha  
| • Site visit to Enryakuji  
| • *Japan Emerging*, Chapter 21 |
| May 17 | TBD |
| May 18 | The Stuff They Made  
| • Site visits to butsudan district, Hikone, and Ōmi Jōfu Traditional Industry Hall, Aishō-chō, Eichigun  
| • *Japan Emerging*, Chapter 27 |
| May 19 | Ōmi Merchants and Korean Ambassadors  
| • Site visit to Ōmihachiman  
| • Selections from *Ōmi shōnin no rinen*  
| • Selections from Lake Biwa: Interactions Between Nature and People |
| May 20 | Warring States and Castles  
| • Site visit to Hikone Castle, Museum, and Castle Town.  
<p>| • <em>Japan Emerging</em>, Chapters 22, 25, and 29 |</p>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Assassins for Hire</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Site visit to Ninjutsu Village and Ninjutsu Mansion, Kōka</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Selections from Kacem Zoughari, <em>The Ninja, Ancient Shadow Warriors of Japan</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Research presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>Departure for U.S. or personal travel.</td>
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Itinerary subject to change.