

Syllabus

This travel study course will introduce students to the history, forms, and functions of Japanese cities. Japan is an advanced technological nation with a high standard of living, not unlike the United States. Yet, for a variety of historical and cultural reasons, its cities are very different than ours.

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the urban form and structure of Japanese cities and how they meet the needs of residents. The deeper reason is to introduce students to urban systems that are different from our own, despite serving the needs of a similarly modern industrialized society.

Thus, this experience will help students to understand the functions of the city in new ways. As such, it is really a course on the forms and functions of cities, and on the role of planners and policy makers in shaping them. Successful cities are places that provide for basic life needs, facilitate opportunities for economic livelihoods, create safe and healthy places to live, provide opportunities to meet aesthetic and cultural needs, provide equitable access between centers of these activities, and minimize negative impacts on neighboring areas and on the natural environment. Using the experience of Japanese cities, students will think in fresh ways about these urban functions and will consider alternative ways to meet them.

The course will be of greatest value to urban planning students, but would also be of interest to students from a broad range of other disciplines, such as geography, sociology, architecture, landscape architecture, international studies, and many more. Students should have prior courses in urban form or urban systems (physical or social).

Classroom Preparation

The class will meet once a week for 6 weeks late in the Fall semester, **Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 pm**, in Room 19, Buell Hall, beginning Tuesday, October 23.

The instructor will participate remotely, from Japan.

All students should purchase and read:

Sorensen, Andre. 2002. *The Making of Urban Japan: Cities and Planning from Edo to the Twenty-first Century*. Routledge.

Both in class meetings and on the study tour, the instructor will assume that all students have read this book, and discussions and writings should reflect this knowledge.

In addition, each student will select a reading (paper or chapter) from the attached reading list, and give a brief 15-minute presentation to the class, highlighting a few key aspects. You should also continue to make observations relevant to this topic while in Japan.

Meeting #1	Syllabus, Trip logistics, Q&A, slides of Japanese cities
Meeting #2	Health and safety; Japanese cities and planning, part 1

Meeting #3	Japanese cities and planning, part 2
Meeting #4	Student reports
Meeting #5	Student reports
Meeting #6	Rebuilding Kobe, more Q&A, logistics

The Study Tour

The trip will consist of 12 days in Japan, visiting the following cities: Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Kobe, Himeji, and Hiroshima. The emphasis will be on the urban centers of the largest cities of Japan, but we will also visit suburbs, new towns, one small town, and regional cities. Most days will consist of a mixture of visiting cultural attractions, commercial centers, and residential neighborhoods. On some days we will be on our own, whereas on other days we will have local guides to assist us.

		Hotel
Dec 31 Mon	Depart ORD, arrive January 1	Try to sleep on the flight!
Jan 1 Tues	Arrive Narita, 16:15	Tokyo Ours Inn Hankyu, Shinagawa
2 Weds	Tokyo Traditional sites	Tokyo Ours Inn Hankyu, Shinagawa
3 Thurs	Tokyo Urban centers	Tokyo Ours Inn Hankyu, Shinagawa
4 Fri	shinkansen to Kyoto Traditional sites	Kyoto Kyoto Kokusai hotel
5 Sat	Kyoto Urban districts Move to Kobe	Kobe Noda Kita
6 Sun	Hiroshima Take shinkansen for day trip	Kobe Noda Kita
7 Mon	Osaka Urban centers	Kobe Noda Kita
8 Tues	Osaka neighborhoods	Kobe Noda Kita
9 Weds	Kobe New town, neighborhoods	Kobe Noda Kita
10 Thurs	Travel to Ako by train (with overnight bag), tour Ako	Ako Kanpo hotel
11 Fri	Leave Ako in morning, for Himeji Himeji castle, structure of castle town.	Kobe Noda Kita
12 Sat	TBD Farewell dinner	Kobe Noda Kita
13 Sun	Fly back to Illinois, from Kansai Leave Sannomiya mid-day	

Assignments

- Pre-trip reading of Sorensen book.
- Reading of one article, and class presentation (see above)

- Keep a written journal and photo journal. All students must bring a digital camera. Although laptops are recommended, the written journal can be handwritten and retyped or scanned for submission later on. Students will be expected to use the written journals and photos to identify new discoveries, insights, and surprising observations about Japanese cities and Japanese life. Some days, the instructor will propose questions to help you to frame these thoughts. Each student must submit their journal and photo journal of 5-15 photos per day within two weeks of the conclusion of the trip.
- Most days will include a field exercise, to be completed individually or in small groups; some of these may involve separate submissions, in addition to the journal entries.

Logistics

Transportation will be via a variety of trains and public transportation. We will also do considerable walking, as this is the best way to see high density cities.

We will eat inexpensive meals. We might divide up into two groups and each lunch or dinner in different places. We have scheduled two more formal group meals: in Aiko, and on the last night, when we will also be joined by our organizers.

In Osaka and Kobe, we will be joined by some Japanese students. They will be able to help guide us, answer questions about the city, and answer questions about Japanese life.

Reference Readings

Hein, Carola, and Philippe Pelletier. 2006. *Cities, Autonomy, and Decentralization in Japan*. Routledge, London.

- Overview on decentralization of urban governance
- Planning history of Tokyo
- Citizen involvement in planning
- *Machizukuri* in Japan
- Urban change and citizen groups in Kyoto

Karan, P.P. and Kristin Stapleton, editors. 1997. *The Japanese City*. The University Press of Kentucky.

- The City in Japan
- Urban Landscapes of Japan
- From Castle Town to Manhattan Town with Suburbs
- Suburbanization of Tokyo and the Daily Lives of Suburban People
- Together and Equal: Place Stratification in Osaka
- Urban Land Use and Control in the Japanese City: Hiroshima, Osaka, Kyoto
- Disasters Chronic and Acute: Issues in the Study of Environmental Pollution in Urban Japan

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transportation. 2003. Urban Land Use Planning System in Japan.

Olshansky, Robert B., Laurie A. Johnson, Kenneth C. Topping. 2006. "Rebuilding communities following disaster: Lessons from Kobe and Los Angeles," *Built Environment* 32(4): 354-374. (read the parts about the rebuilding of Kobe).

Shelton, Barrie. 2012. *Learning From the Japanese City*, 2nd Edition. Routledge.

- Areas and lines (how Japanese perceive and use space)
- Streets and urban typologies
- Superblock synthesis (analysis of a typical superblock)

Sorensen, Andre, and Carolin Funck. 2007. *Living Cities in Japan*. Routledge.

- Toshi keikaku vs. machizukuri: emerging paradigm of civil society in Japan, 1950-1980
- Changing governance of shared spaces: machizukuri as institutional innovation
- Japan's construction lobby and the privatization of highway-related public corporations
- Machizukuri, civil society, and the transformation of Japanese city planning: cases from Kobe