

HUM 180-1 INTRODUCTION TO TOHOKU CULTURE 1 (3 credit hours)

HUM 185-1 INTRODUCTION TO AKITA CULTURE 1 (3 credit hours)

Instructor: Norie OSHIMA, PhD

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Semesters: Fall 2009

Meeting times: -

DESCRIPTION: Akita is one of prefectures in Tohoku region. As well as other prefecture in Tohoku region, Akita is rich in local culture that still remains as a precious event/ custom/ lifestyle/ form in an area. Students start studying with finding the answer for 'Where is Tohoku/Akita?' and 'what is culture?'. This course provides introduction to Akita culture through studying various kind of culture that are maintained by local people. You may see the local culture that inherit from their ancestors and will leave to future generations in fieldtrips.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of this course is to provide students with

- * Understanding of richness and diversity of Akita culture;
- * Understanding of particularity and universality of Akita culture;
- * The ability to collect relevant information on Akita culture, to process and critically assess information in order to make a research paper, and to introduce the research to other students both orally and in writing;
- * The ability to develop a logical way of thinking.

STUDY MATERIALS:

<Textbooks>

None

<Reference books, sources of readings and other information>

Ferraro, G. (2006): Chapter 2, The Concept of Culture in 'Cultural Anthropology'. Thomson Wadsworth, pp26-47.

Fukuda, T. (2005): Theorizing Local Culture: Cultural Turns in Contemporary Japanese Society and Current Studies on Local Culture. *Human Geography*, 57-6, pp. 3-15.

Mitchell, D. (1995): There's No such Thing as Culture: Towards a Reconceptualization of the Idea of Culture in Geography. *Transaction of the Institute of British Geographers*. 20-1, pp102-116.

ASSESSMENT:

10pts: Class attendance

30pts: 2 reports on excursions (20pts is for the 1st excursion, 10pts is for the 2nd one)

10pts: A reading assignment

10pts: Group Presentation

20pts: Group Research Paper

20pts: 2 Response Papers for Student's Presentation

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: None

POLICIES: If you can't attend with unavoidable reason such as funeral, you should inform secretary.

COURSE FORMAT AND ACTIVITIES: Lecture, Presentation and Excursion**SCHEDULE:**

<Week 1>

Theme: Introduction of the Course

Readings: none

<Week 2>

Theme: Tohoku in Japanese Cultural Realm

Readings: none

<Week 3>

Theme: What is culture?

Readings: Ferraro, G. (2006): Chapter 2, The Concept of Culture in *'Cultural Anthropology'*. Thomson Wadsworth, pp26-47.

<Week 4>

Theme: Current Studies on Local Culture

Readings: Fukuda, T. (2005): Theorizing Local Culture: Cultural Turns in Contemporary Japanese Society and Current Studies on Local Culture. *Human Geography*, 57-6, pp. 3-15.

<Week 5>

Theme: Excursion 1: Osarizawa Mine

Readings: None

<Week 6>

Theme: Excursion2: Arawa Shrine

Readings: None

<Week 7>

Theme: Religion in Tohoku/Akita

Readings: Byron Earhart, H. (2004): *Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity*. Thomson.

<Week 8>

Theme: Castle Town Akita

Readings: Yamori, K. (1990): *The Regional Structure of Japanese Castle Towns*.
Taimeido, pp.417-421. None

<Week 9>

Theme: Presentation Week 1

Readings: None

<Week 10>

Theme: Presentation Week 2

Readings: None

<Week 11>

Theme: Festivals in Akita

Readings: None

<Week 12>

Theme: Agriculture in Akita

Readings: None

<Week 13>

Theme: Emishi People

Readings: None

< *Week 14* >

Theme: Dietary Culture in Akita

Readings: None

< *Week 15* >

Theme: No Final Exam

Readings: None