

Japan Music and Culture

Conducted in English

No prior music experience or knowledge of Japanese or Japanese music is required.

Location: Tokyo, Japan

Dates: January 1 – 24

Host: The Academy at Magic Hour

Credits: 3.0

Description:

In this series lecture seminar, you will explore the music world of Japan. Your course director is Mr. Yukio Kobayashi. With over forty-five years of experience in the Japanese music industry, Mr. Kobayashi has worked closely with both popular and independent Japanese bands and musicians. You will receive lectures on Japanese music history, elements of Japanese music across a range of musical genres, writing about Japanese music, and more. Featured guests include prominent musicians, DJs, and music producers in independent and mainstream music, including music for anime. You will spend time in a recording studio and try out the various roles in studio production. You will visit a prominent music company to learn unique aspects of the Japanese music business. By course end, you will have gained a healthy sense of the professionalism, dedication, and skill that characterizes the Japanese music industry.

Your course begins at a seaside retreat in Kyonan, Chiba, and includes survival Japanese, a visit to the largest sitting Buddha in Japan, mochi-making and fan-making for the New Year, and more. In Tokyo, you will visit Studio Ghibli, wear kimonos while exploring Asakusa and the Senso-ji Temple (Tokyo's "old" town), and have a program dinner.

Requirements include:

A) **Detailed Journal/Log:**

- i. An ongoing music journal/log, including note-taking during lectures and your questions, observations, and responses throughout the course. You are also compiling a song list from the music you're introduced to by key musical guests. This journal/log forms the basis for your term essay (20% of your grade).
- ii. You will be given a selection of music by various Japanese artists before your departure. You will choose three artists minimum to write about their musical sound, quality, and offer an overall critique and response. (15% of your grade)

B) **Active Participation:** Motivation, enthusiasm, exemplary behavior, and looking out for your peers for the duration of the course. (15% of your grade)

C) **Presentation:** A two or three-person group presentation on your musical and cultural journey in Japan, or focusing on an aspect of the Japanese music world you experienced that you would like to explore more in-depth (20% of your grade)

D) **Term Essay:** Based on your journal/log entries, in a typed, eight-to-ten-page, double-spaced essay with title, write an in-depth reflection on your musical and cultural journey in Japan this January. You are integrating your song list, lecture notes, observations, etc. You may also include other media such as photos, video footage, music samples, and your own music. However, this is a written essay first and foremost. Email as pdf by

January 24 (Japan time) to: academy@magichour.co.jp and koba9@3rdstones.com. (30% of your grade)

Ultimately, the journal/log, presentation, and term essay are not only for your grade, but also serve as physical mementos of your immersion experience.

Required Materials:

Course handouts

Journal (see Culture Program requirements)