



Cultural Connections: Touch the world without leaving home
 Japan Center for Michigan Universities, September 2 - September 11, 2020
Syllabus & Timetable



Introduction:

Objectives of this course include, 1) connecting university students and others to the world and cultures outside of Japan, 2) providing students with a high-quality intensive English-language course that suits current travel needs, 3) challenging students' preconceived ideas of culture and life in other countries, 4) introducing strategies on how to communicate with people from different backgrounds, 5) developing students' skills of expression and argument in English through speech and writing.

Program length:

42 hours (22 contact hours, 20 hours additional online coursework) over the course of 2 weeks. Online courses will be taught using Zoom and additional coursework provided via Schoology. Instructors will provide all materials, and no textbooks are required.

	Wednesday <i>September 2</i>	Thursday <i>September 3</i>	Friday <i>September 4</i>
10:30-12:00	My Japan		Intercultural Relations
13:00-14:30	Intercultural Relations		My Japan
14:40-16:10	Model United Nations		Model United Nations
22:00-23:00	Cultural Connections Online	Online group work with American students	
	Wednesday <i>September 9</i>	Thursday <i>September 10</i>	Friday <i>September 11</i>
10:30-12:00	My Japan		Intercultural Relations
13:00-14:30	Intercultural Relations		My Japan
14:40-16:10	Model United Nations		Model United Nations
16:30-17:30	Cultural Connections Online		
22:00-23:00		Online group work with American students	

Class descriptions:

My Japan

In this class, students will learn a useful strategy for describing and defining words in English and then use this to describe Japanese cultural practices that they would love to share with the world. This course focuses on how to speak to an international audience that is not familiar with Japan. The final product of this course is a short essay that explains one aspect of Japanese culture and will be due on the final day of the Cultural Connections session.

Intercultural Relations

This course explores cultural self-awareness, other culture awareness, and the dynamics that arise in interactions between the two. Students will learn to understand how communication processes differ among cultures and to identify challenges that arise from these differences in intercultural interactions and learn ways to creatively address them.

Model United Nations:

In this class, students will represent a country and role play as a United Nations delegate. Students will develop their ability to work cooperatively in English, and class activities will also include analyzing current events, practicing perspective taking, and using good presentation skills. Students will be encouraged to view the content with an open mind and should expect their preconceived ideas to be challenged in order to become more well-rounded world citizens.

Cultural Connections Online

Students will have the opportunity to hear information about some of the diverse communities that live in Michigan and all over United States live, and directly from the source. In this time of global connectivity, it becomes even more important to hear the voices of those who come from different backgrounds.

Online group work

JCMU will set up study groups for students to work with American university students on a variety of discussion topics. These will be related to classwork and other conversational topics to allow students to speak to native or highly proficient speakers of English.

Instructors:

Class teachers may be reached at the following emails or on students' Schoology pages, which they will set up when the program begins.

Christopher Garth - cgarth@jcmu.org

Mandy Mashima - mklein@jcmu.org

Benjamin McCracken - bmccracken@jcmu.org