

Objects and Ritual in Japanese History

USC U.S.-China Institute/National Consortium for Teaching about Asia
2021 Summer Online Seminar * June – July 2021



Seminar Description

This course will use objects from art, industry, technology, and war to consider the richness of the Japanese past. From court ceremonies to samurai rituals on the battlefield, from daily gift exchanges to Buddhist mortuary markers, Japanese communities have expressed their dreams, fears, power, and imagination using material culture and rituals focusing on objects. Join us to explore Japan's history through the study of things.

Lecturer

Professor [Morgan Pitelka](#) teaches history and Asian studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is a specialist in the history of late medieval and early modern Japan, with a focus on the samurai, tea culture, ceramics, cities, and material culture.

Benefits

- 3 Continuing Education Units from the USC Rossier School of Education (processing fee applicable, \$35/unit)
- Certificate of Completion
- Online resources and materials

Seminar Schedule

Reading assignments and pre-recorded lectures for each week will be available in an online forum and are to be completed prior to the discussion sessions. Access and log-in information will be provided upon acceptance into the course.

Objects and Ritual in Japanese History

USC U.S.-China Institute/National Consortium for Teaching about Asia
2021 Summer Online Seminar * June – July 2021

Online discussions (via Zoom) will be each Wednesday, 2-3pm Pacific Time.

Session	Discussions	Topics
1	June 16	Ritual and Material Culture in Prehistoric Japan
2	June 23	Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daily Life of the Imperial Court
3	June 30	Social and Cultural Rituals and the Maintenance of Warrior Society
4	July 7	The Performance of Power in Early Modern Japan
5	July 14	Ritual and Materiality in the Construction of Traditional Culture in Modern Japan

Requirements

Must be completed to receive the benefits.

Attendance

You should actively participate in the five weekly online live discussions on Tuesdays 2-3pm PT. These online discussions will be on Zoom. The registration link will be emailed to you after you sign up for the course.

You can miss one session and still be eligible to receive the benefits by submitting a make-up assignment. If you miss two or more sessions, you will be removed automatically from the course.

Make-up Assignments

- Attend an event, including lectures, discussion panel, museum exhibits, performances, etc., that focuses on Japan-related issues
- Submit a 150-200 word summary of what you learned and post it in the forum

Forum Participation

Each teacher is expected to actively participate in a seminar-focused web forum. To log-in:

1. Go to <http://china.usc.edu/k12/forums>
2. Click on the “Log In” button at the top left corner, underneath the menu bar.
3. Enter your username and password. Your username and password will be emailed to you.
4. Click on “forum” under the “k-12 curriculum” button on the menu bar. OR go to <https://china.usc.edu/k12/forums/forums/objects-and-ritual-japanese-history-fall-2021>

Objects and Ritual in Japanese History

USC U.S.-China Institute/National Consortium for Teaching about Asia
2021 Summer Online Seminar * June – July 2021

You will have access to several general discussion forums that are public for educators. These include “[Asia in My Classroom](#),” “[Lesson Plans](#),” “[Film Festival](#),” and “[Web Resources](#),” etc.

Minimum contribution of 20 thoughtful, well-written, analytical posts. You are encouraged and welcome to participate as much as possible in the forum, but please note that posts like introductions, one-line responses, and the final essay will not count towards the total.

- EVALUATIONS – reactions to readings, video presentations, and other participants’ posts. At least one posting needs to be made following each live discussion session:
 - React to the ideas presented
 - Discuss how these ideas can be effectively shared with students
- FILM REVIEW - at least one posting needs to be a film review from a teacher’s point of view:
 - 100-150 word summary on how you can use the film in the classroom
 - Reviewing a previously discussed film is acceptable, but be sure to offer your own assessment of the film and how it might be used with students
 - Post your review in the “Film Festival” forum at <http://china.usc.edu/k12/forums/forums/film-festival>
- WEBSITE REVIEW - at least one posting needs to assess the teaching usefulness of an East Asia-focused website:
 - Provide the website url, describe its contents and evaluate its ease of use
 - Discuss how the website could be used with students
 - Post your review in the “Web Resources” forum at <http://china.usc.edu/k12/forums/forums/web-resources>

Curriculum project

Upon completion of the seminar, you will incorporate the seminar experience into your own classes by developing a multi-lesson curriculum project. Design a series of three lessons to be used in one of the courses you teach.

Your multi-lesson curriculum project should include the following components:

- A rationale for the proposed unit
 - Explain how and where the unit fits into your course.
 - What skills and/or content will your students have prior to the unit and what will they be ready to tackle?
- Skill and content objectives according to your state or district standards
 - Identify which of these is addressed by your lesson plans.
- Detailed lesson plans
 - Include specific lesson objectives, class and individual activities, and materials to be used.
 - Provide discussion-launching questions, questions to guide reading, and other procedural tips.

Objects and Ritual in Japanese History

USC U.S.-China Institute/National Consortium for Teaching about Asia
2021 Summer Online Seminar * June – July 2021

- Include copies of textbook readings, draft handouts, or other materials. Be sure to provide complete citations for the materials you include. You are encouraged to use music, film, and the web as part of your lessons.
- A plan for assessing student achievement
 - Describe culminating activities, projects, or other tasks which will permit students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they have acquired.

Final Essay

Reflect on the seminar experience in a 250-500 word essay. Discuss how you intend to incorporate modern China into your teaching. Possible topics you may wish to address include attitudes, approaches, and materials. Which issues or ideas raised in the seminar are of greatest relevance to your courses and your students? Please post this in the forum.

Deadline

Sunday, August 15, 2021

Requirement	Due Date
Complete videos and readings	Prior to each discussion session
20 forum posts	Evaluations are due prior to and after each discussion session. Film review and website review are due by August 15, 2021
Final Essay	August 15, 2021
Curriculum Project	August 15, 2021

Questions?

Please contact cgao@usc.edu