

Japan

Semester: Spring 27

Course Information: International Studies – 3 Credit Core Course

Course Code: IS 398 Japan

Lead Faculty: Dr. James Wanliss

Travel Assistant: TBA

Course Title: Japan: Cultural Innovations from Samurai to Silicon

Course Description:

This interdisciplinary travel course explores Japan's synthesis of traditional values and cutting-edge innovation, examining how cultural foundations shaped a modern East Asian society. Students will journey from Tokyo's historic temples to its world-renowned robotics laboratories, discovering how Japanese culture navigates the tension between preservation and progress. The course engages students across all disciplines through experiential learning: business majors will explore Japanese management philosophy and innovation strategies; humanities students will examine cultural traditions, art, and literature; STEM students will investigate technological advancement and engineering marvels; social science majors will analyze societal structures and cross-cultural communication. Students will participate in cultural exchanges including traditional crafts with origami and drumming workshops, samurai heritage experiences, and visits to corporate innovation centers, traditional markets like Tsukiji, and modern technology museums. Through daily reflection, journaling, and group discussions, students will develop intercultural competence while examining how worldview shapes technological development and societal progress.

Travel Dates: March 4, 2027, to March 14, 2027 (Spring break 2027)

Estimated Cost: \$4,960.00

Housing/Accommodations: Local hotels (double or triple rooms).

Contact: jwanliss@andersonuniversity.edu or studyabroad@andersonuniversity.edu for more information.

Eligibility Requirements: Anderson students are eligible to enroll in an international study course (AU Abroad – IS 398) with their advisor's approval. This includes freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. However, scholarship eligibility depends upon class rank, GPA and financial need.

Scholarship Eligibility: Scholarships are awarded to help reduce the cost of the travel fee, which is an additional charge as part of the student's registration for the program. The AU

Abroad scholarship ranges up to \$1,000.00 and is awarded upon eligibility, GPA and financial need. To be eligible for the AU Abroad scholarship, students must be a sophomore, junior or senior. First-year students are not eligible for the AU Abroad scholarship but can register and take any international studies course with academic approval. Freshmen are not eligible for the AU Abroad scholarship. The AU Abroad scholarship is only for AU Abroad classes and cannot be used for any other study abroad programs including any departmental or summer programs.

Pell Eligible Students: If you receive a Pell grant to attend Anderson University, you can apply for a Gilman Scholarship to study abroad on an AU Abroad program. The Gilman scholarship is a national scholarship program sponsored for US Citizens to study abroad (sponsored by the US State Department). To see if you are eligible to apply you can speak with a financial aid advisor. The deadline to apply for the Gilman award is October 1, 2026. It is a competitive program for those students who have financial need. (While we support applications for the Gilman scholarship, the award notifications are made after the payment of the course/travel fee is due. Therefore, you must make payment of the course/travel fee to attend AU Abroad if you wish to attend. We cannot hold or defer any payments pending a possible Gilman grant since we need to finalize all travel well in advance. There are no exceptions to this policy.) Email aid@andersonuniversity.edu to see if you are eligible for Pell and the Gilman Scholarship. If eligible to apply, you need to complete a Gilman Scholarship application prior to October 1, 2026.

Application and Registration Deadline: Students will register for the class during open registration for the spring 27 semester. Students should speak with their academic advisor regarding how the IS 398 (AU Abroad) course will be used for their academic plan before applying online for this class. (Students can only apply for one AU Abroad course during the semester.)

Payment: TBA

Payment Details: TBA

Passport: It is recommended that you expedite your passport application or renewal. **Passports are not required at time of course registration.** However, you need a valid passport which is at least six months current to travel. Passports are taking longer to be processed by the US State Department. Please allow 4 months for renewals or initial applications. We are not responsible if your passport renewal or application is not processed in time for the program. There are no refunds of the payment (course/travel fee) if you do not have your passport in time for travel.

Included: Round trip airfare, breakfast at the hotel each morning, accommodations, and entrance to tours as listed on the itinerary.

Exclusions: *Transportation to the airport:* Please note that we do not provide transportation to the airport. Flights are not determined at this time and are normally out of ATL. However, they can also be out of GSP or CLT. We do not provide transportation to the airport or cover the cost of this expense. It is up to you to get to the airport. Students must leave the airport assigned. There are no exceptions to this. *Meals:* Normally, only breakfast at the hotel is included. You are

responsible for your meals, refreshments, and all food/snacks while abroad. ***Government Id:*** Passports and any required official documentation to enter the country are not covered, and students are required to pay these charges. ***Baggage Fees:*** Normally on an international flight, one bag can be checked for free. Additional baggage fees, whether for extra luggage or due to over luggage weight, will not be covered. ***Additional Tours/Sites:*** Entrance fees to places not listed on the official itinerary are not covered. ***Personal Expense:*** Students should bring additional funding to help cover personal expenses while abroad, including funding for meals, personal expenses, gifts, etc.

COVID Vaccination: Anderson University recommends students follow CDC guidance regarding vaccinations.