

COURSE OUTLINE

**Ethnic Studies 124  
Japanese Experience in America**

**I. Catalog Statement**

Ethnic Studies 124 is an in-depth survey of the history of Japanese immigrants and their descendants in America from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present. The course is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to more fully understand the experience of the Japanese immigrants and their descendants in America.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

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Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

**Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0**

Recommended Preparation: Eligibility for English 120 or ESL 151

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skill Level Ranges: Reading 5, Writing 5, Listening Speaking 5, Math 1.

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. analyze short essays (approximately 2-6 pages in length) to identify thesis, topic, developmental and concluding sentences, as well as transitional expressions used to increase coherence;
2. evaluate compositions for unity, sufficiency of development, evidence, coherence, and variety of sentence structure;
3. organize and write an essay which
  - a. addresses the topic and is directed by a thesis statement
  - b. has an introduction, body, and conclusion and demonstrates a basic understanding of essay organization
  - c. shows some awareness of critical thinking: e.g., linkage of evidence with assertion, some awareness of pro-con sides to an issue, ability to compare/contrast two short readings in a focused way
  - d. develops ideas, moving from general to specific
  - e. is easy to read and follow

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. demonstrate the importance of the Japanese experience in America;
2. compare and contrast the Japanese experience in America with that of mainstream immigrants in America;
3. evaluate the history of Japanese in America as an integral part of the United States history;
4. assess the World War II camp experience of Japanese and Japanese Americans;
5. assess the importance of contributions made by Japanese Americans to the United States.

**IV. Course Content**

**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours**

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|--|----------|
| A. General Introduction to Japanese Experience in America  | 8 hours  |
| 1. Origins and causes of Japanese immigration  |          |
| 2. Local, state and national response to Japanese immigration                                      |          |
| 3. Racism, discrimination and prejudice as applied to the Japanese immigrant and their descendants |          |
| 4. Japanese American contributions   |          |
| 5. Japanese American contemporary issues: identity, assimilation, acculturation                    |          |
| B. Early Japanese Experience in America (19 <sup>th</sup> Century to 1924)                         | 10 hours |
| 1. 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Japan and U.S. penetration   |          |
| 2. Early immigration—origins and causes  |          |
| 3. Japanese immigrants to Hawaii   |          |
| 4. Japanese immigrants to the mainland   |          |
| 5. Japanese in railway and mining  |          |
| 6. Japanese in agriculture   |          |
| 7. Japanese immigrants and the American labor movement   |          |
| 8. Japanese immigrant women  |          |
| 9. Termination of Japanese immigration   |          |
| C. Japanese Experience during the 1930's   | 10 hours |
| 1. Japanese immigrant society  |          |
| 2. Japanese immigrant institutions   |          |
| 3. The second generation   |          |
| 4. Japanese American Citizens League   |          |
| D. Japanese Experience during World War II   | 10 hours |
| 1. Japanese in Hawaii  |          |
| 2. Social, economic and political background of evacuation   |          |
| 3. Evacuation  |          |
| 4. Internment and camp experience  |          |
| 5. Military experience of second generation  |          |
| E. Japanese Experience from Post World War II  | 10 hours |
| 1. The second generation   |          |

2. Media and the Japanese American
3. Education and the Japanese American
4. The third generation
5. Reparations, political activism
6. Japanese American community today
7. Contemporary issues

**V. Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture and discussion;
2. audio-visual presentations;
3. guest speakers.

**VI. Out of Class Assignments**

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. research paper using primary sources;
2. assigned readings;
3. class presentations (e.g. using themes discussed in class and primary sources, create a presentation that effectively demonstrates either the struggles or the autonomy of the Japanese American community).

**VII. Methods of Evaluation**

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the course:

1. three to five examinations and a final examination to demonstrate course exit standards;
2. class participation;
3. class presentations.

**VIII. Textbook(s)**

Spickard, Paul. *Japanese Americans: The Formation and Transformation of an Ethnic Group*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 2009. Print.  
13<sup>th</sup> Grade Textbook Reading Level. ISBN #: 978-0813544335.

**IX. Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. recognize US history from a Japanese American perspective;
2. construct an argument using supportive and appropriate sources;
3. identify and critique various political, economic, & social forces that have been key to the Japanese American community and its development within the United States.