

Course Title	LAI505 Regional Culture of Japan 3	Instructor(s)	Hironori Hayase Coordinator: Lloyd Walker		
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Class Style	Project-based learning / Fieldwork	Office Hours	To be announced		
Track	All tracks	Mode of Instruction	Solo with guest lectures		
Credits	1	Allocated Year	All		
Active Learning	4-(1) Interactive Lecture 4-(9) Group Work on Questions 5-(1) Cooperative Student Projects 5-(4) Community Based Projects	Compulsory or Elective	Elective		
Course Overview	Students will conduct fieldwork in the target region and plan and implement a regional project designed to contribute to solving local issues. In 2026, the course focuses on Miyazaki's Japan Heritage sites, especially the kofun (ancient burial mounds), their connection with the Hyuga myths, and ways to strengthen their appeal as tourism and cultural resources.				
Course Objectives	1. Analyze the content and background of regional issues. Students will learn about Miyazaki's Japan Heritage sites and examine why cultural properties and cultural facilities attract fewer visitors than major leisure, commercial, and tourism destinations. Particular attention will be given to weak public transportation access from Miyazaki Airport, Miyazaki Station, and Miyazaki Port, and to insufficient linkage with other attractions such as food, scenic sites, and leisure activities. 2. Implement practical measures to address regional issues. Students will examine approaches to attracting visitors who travel by private car or rental car and will explore how deeper interpretation of Japan Heritage stories, including their links with the Hyuga myths, can be combined with other local tourism resources. Through fieldwork on two model touring routes, students will identify and test ideas for communicating Miyazaki's appeal to visitors from outside the prefecture and overseas. 3. Promote solutions to regional issues in cooperation with the local community. Students will participate in the Japan Heritage Festival in Tropical Miyazaki at the Seagaia Convention Center on November 7-8, 2026. By comparing Japan Heritage stories from across Japan and interacting with visitors, including international visitors, students will collect direct feedback and identify clues for improving tourism promotion and visitor experience. 4. Present the results of practical efforts to solve regional issues. Students will integrate the findings from orientation, fieldwork, and community-based activities, then develop and present practical proposals. Group presentations and discussion will be used to identify issues from different perspectives and refine recommendations based on the results of practical testing.				
Prerequisite	None				
Course Schedule	No .	Contents	Homework / Task	Purpose / Activity	Schedule
	1	Orientation/ Planning and Discussion	Read background information on the target area; plan and prepare for fieldwork.	Learn the story of Miyazaki's kofun and the Hyuga myths, understand the current situation and challenges of tourism promotion, and prepare for fieldwork.	Oct. 2 (Fri.), 4th period
	Students will be divided into three groups and assigned to participate in Fieldwork I (① or ②) or Fieldwork II.				
	2	Fieldwork I (①②/Model Course Experience)	Collect data; propose and implement project ideas.	Model Course Experience (conducted in two groups) Visit the kofun sites through two model touring routes and investigate access, signage, interpretation, visitor experience, and other relevant factors.	Model Course①Oct. 10 (Sat.)–11 (Sun.) Model Course②Oct. 24 (Sat.)–25 (Sun.)
	3				
	4				
5	Fieldwork II (Japan Heritage)	Collect data; propose and implement project	Support for the Japan Heritage Festival. Compare 104 Japan Heritage	Nov. 7 (Sat.)–8 (Sun.)	

		Festival)	ideas.	stories from across Japan, collect visitor feedback, and identify ways to improve communication of Miyazaki's appeal.	
	6 7	Reflection and Integration	Write a reflection.	Organize data obtained through fieldwork and develop practical ideas for improving tourism attraction and communication.	Nov. 27 (Fri.), 4th and 5th periods 〈Bldg. 2, 2F, Room 208/209〉
	8	Presentation / Discussion	Provide feedback.	Present improvement proposals at a level understandable to government and tourism stakeholders and refine them through discussion.	Dec. 4 (Fri.), 4th period 〈Bldg. 2, 2F, Room 208/209〉
	9	Final Report	Submit the final report.	Integrate learning from the course and submit it as a practical written proposal for improvement.	Deadline: Dec. 25 (Fri.)
Grading	Reading, homework, practicum/fieldwork activities: 50%, Final presentation/written work: 50% ◎Students must attend both days of their assigned fieldwork. The final grade will be determined as follows: A: 90-100 points, B: 80-89 points, C: 70-79 points, D: 60-69 points, F: Less than 60 points. Plagiarism: Plagiarism is not acceptable at MIU. Students must submit their own work and must not copy from other sources unless those sources are appropriately credited. Students who submit copied material as their own work may receive a grade of F or be required to withdraw from the course.				
Textbooks	Handouts will be provided in class.				
References	Suggested readings and background materials will be provided in class.				
NOTES	STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES 2026 COURSE: This is an intensive, fieldwork-based course. Students are expected to participate in the orientation, assigned model-course fieldwork, the Japan Heritage Festival activities, reflection/integration work, presentation/discussion, and the final written assignment. Course communication and preparation instructions will be sent by e-mail or provided during explanation/orientation sessions. Students are responsible for checking and responding to course communications. Students are expected to inform the instructor in advance if they must miss a class or fieldwork activity. Because the course depends on field participation, make-up opportunities may be limited. Students are responsible for attending classes and fieldwork, participating actively as members of the class, and completing all required assignments in order to pass the course. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT: The course will combine whole-class activities, individual work, small-group work, guest lectures, and community-based fieldwork. Students and instructors will work together to maintain a safe and respectful learning environment. Harassment or bullying will not be tolerated. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS: The goal is to provide an effective learning environment for all students. Students who require accommodations to make the course fully accessible should contact the instructor. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus when necessary.				