

# JAPAN

## *Materials: Touching the Void*

Dates: June 17 – July 24

### GENERAL INFO:

Course Location: Tokushima (Awagami Factory), Kagawa, Kyoto, and Tokyo, Japan  
 Meeting Times: TBA (Before April) Informational meeting  
 TBA (before departure) Online Informational meeting  
 June 17 – July 8, Traveling in Japan

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 Office Hours: Via Skype by appointment only

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The focus of this trip is exploring the notion of "Touching the Void" through the native materials, objects, and architectures of Japan. The trip starts with a Japanese papermaking workshop in Tokushima. Afterwards students visit the contemporary art museums at the rustic Naoshima Island. The trip continues to Kyoto and Tokyo to visit temples, shrines, and museums to explore both traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. In Tokyo students take a one-day workshop in creativity by the guest artist Sayumi Yokouchi, and make small-scale artwork with materials they have chosen in Japan.

### COURSE GOALS:

The purpose and objectives of this course are to provide the student with the opportunity to:

1. Explore Japanese historical and contemporary art and culture
2. Experience traditional Japanese papermaking process
3. Expand the notion of void and sense of touch in art and design
4. Introduce creative and technical experimentation in working with materials

### GRADING:

Final grades will be assigned based on the percentage of points accumulated from the evaluation of the following course components:

Sketch+Scrap Book	50 pts
Participation to the papermaking workshop	50pts
Participation to the Ma-workshop	50 pts
Final Project	200 pts
Final Report	100 pts
Participation in class and critique session	50 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>500 pts</b>

The total numbers of points accumulated by each student will be divided by the total number of points available to produce a percentage, by which letter grades will be assigned as follows:

	A: 100 – 93%	A- : 92 – 90%
B+: 89 – 87%	B : 86 – 83%	B- : 82 – 80%
C+: 79 – 77%	C : 76 – 73%	C- : 72 – 70%
D+: 69 – 67%	D : 66 – 63%	D-: 62 – 60%
F: 59% – below		

### GENERAL GRADING GUIDELINES:

#### "A" student (100-90)

- Clearly excels in the concept and fabrication of projects.

- **Displays a sense of commitment to their work that is far beyond normal expectations;** has the self-motivation and self-discipline needed for success.
- Shows an exceptional combination of intelligence, insight, creativity, organizational skills, and commitment.
- Comes to class prepared at all times.
- Completes work on time.
- Is very active in class critiques and discussions.
- Has virtually perfect attendance.

**“B” student (89-80)**

- Consistently obtains good results on projects.
- **Displays a sense of commitment to their work that is beyond normal expectations;** has some self-motivation, but may need outside stimulus.
- Shows some semblance of intelligence, insight, creativity, organizational skills, or commitment, but it is yet under-developed.
- Comes to class prepared at all times, or almost.
- Completes work on time.
- Is somewhat active in class critiques and discussions.
- Has good attendance, missing less than 3 classes.

**“C” student (79-70)**

- Obtains mediocre or inconsistent results on projects.
- **Displays a reasonable commitment to their work within normal expectations; has an average level of motivation that relies on outside stimulus.**
- May be lacking in insight, creativity, organizational skills, or commitment. **Some students have exceptional ability but poor self-management or bad attitude; others are diligent but simply average in ability. He/she lacks the ability to put it all together.**
- Comes to class prepared more often than not.
- Completes work on time.
- Is occasionally active in class critiques and discussions.
- Has good attendance, missing only a few classes.

**“D” student (69-60)**

- Obtains poor results on projects.
- Displays only occasional commitment to their work; lacks self-motivation.
- Has little insight, creativity, organizational skills, or commitment
- Comes to class prepared only half of the time.
- Has difficulty completing work on time.
- Is seldom active in class critiques and discussions.
- Has poor attendance.

**“F” student (59-below)**

- **Missed required class meetings.**
- Obtains poor or no results on projects; has no comprehension of the process.
- Displays no commitment to their work; little or no self-motivation.
- Rarely comes to class prepared.
- Rarely completes work on time.
- Is rarely active in class critiques and discussions.
- Disrupts the group travel.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Attendance is imperative.

The student is required to attend all class meetings and remain in the activities for the entire session. There is no exception besides illness. The student is responsible to be on time to any class activities. The student who is not capable of attending to the class meetings or disrupting the class activities in Japan will be reported to the Dean of Student office. It may result the student to be expelled to the US and receives the final grade of F.

It is important that the student be on time and prepared to work.

If the student is late or absent, the student is responsible for the information presented during that class activities. There are no make-up presentations and lectures.

Failure to attend activities regularly and/or arriving late suggest poor motivation on the part of the student.

**SKETCH+SCRAP BOOK:**

The student is required to bring a sketchbook to the travel and do drawings. It also works as a scrap book to collect inspiring materials and journal of the trip. It will be corrected by the instructor at the last evening of the trip for grading. The size of the sketchbook should be 7" x 10" at least.

**ASSIGNMENT:**

The student is required to create a small-scale artwork in the studio in Tokyo as the final project. It is mandatory to attend the studio times 10:00AM – 5:00PM on July 5 and 6 for discussions and making, and the critique 6:00 – 9:00pm on July 6.

**FINAL REPORT:**

The student is required to submit a final report electronically by July 24. It should contain photographs and journals.

**THE TRAVEL RULES:**

1. Be on time.
2. Be with the travel partner when you leave the hotel.
3. Respect the cultural and legal rules in Japan.
4. Respect other classmates.
5. Maintain the healthy sleeping and eating schedule.
6. Be responsible for your own medical preparations for the travel.

**THE STUDIO RULES:**

1. **Each student is responsible for keeping the studio clean.** Failure to do so will affect the course grade.

**NOTE:**

- Students with special needs (such as physical or learning disability) should contact the instructor by March 5 so appropriate accommodations can be made.
- Students who have dietary restrictions or preferences should contact to the instructor by April 1.
- Students are responsible on their health condition. The student with a medical issues should talk to the primary doctor and prepare the prescription or over the counter medicines, and any documentation for the travel abroad.
- The content of this syllabus is subject to change at any time by the instructor.