Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2023	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	PART/JPNA253		
Course Title	Samurai Code and Culture		
Prerequisites	None		
Course Instructor	REED William	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Performing Arts	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Class Methods	Face to face

(NOTE 1) Class Methods are subject to change

(NOTE 2) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course"

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	Cap (registrant capacity): 25 students
	Samurai Code provides students with opportunities to consider critical thinking, ethics, philosophy, and behavior in the context of Samurai history, and its influence on Japanese Culture today. The major modules of the Course include: Bushido Code Now and Then, Creating the Samurai Body, Samurai Symbols, Samurai Tea Ceremony, Samurai Films, Retelling Samurai Stories, Ninja as Liberal Arts, Budo Tourism. Samurai Culture is highly experiential learning, introducing students to essential creative elements of Samurai practice, with Master classes in Japanese Sword, Tea Ceremony, and Ninja Arts, as well as experiencing Samurai Culture through films, books, and discussions.
	Throughout various periods of its history, and drawing on influences from within and outside of Japan, Samurai Culture is itself a study in intercultural understanding. We will engage in selected readings and discussions, as well as presentations to encourage active engagement in the subject. You will learn the lexicon of Samurai Culture through Japanese words that uniquely describe it.
	The Course will combine readings and video resources featuring the best of the Samurai films and stories. You will not only discover, but learn to narrate interesting Samurai stories with confidence and skill as a storyteller, practicing your presentations on video for self-coaching.
Course Description	Although many valuable sources of information are in Japanese, for selected pieces we will use advanced translation software to get the gist of the content, and get you pointed in new directions that you can explore in English. You will learn about local Samurai history, and how to plan your own travel itineraries to experience the best of Samurai Culture, including exploration of historic sites online and with Google Maps, as well as historical maps of events.
	We will learn how the Samurai defined and developed themselves through the principles and training of Mind-Skill-Body. Experience and engagement in Samurai Culture will help you enjoy, learn, practice, and perform the key elements of Samurai Code and Culture. You will take a step forward in becoming yourself a Renaissance Samurai.
	The Course is divided into 8 Sections, and we will spend approximately two weeks on each Lettered Section, or four Numbered Topics per week. I will introduce the topics, provide resources for further information, and elements for discussion. Depending on the nature of the topic, we will use selected reading and discussion, watch clips from films and documentaries, and even perform interactive physical demonstrations. The idea is to look for what is understandable, memorable, remarkable, and motivating about Samurai Code and Culture.
	The Mandala Chart provides a common framework for the structure of the course, which helps organize and make sense of the connections between the wide range of topics. It also becomes a structure for the

Final Paper. At the same time, there is considerable flexibility to explore in depth topics of interest, and to share your discoveries with the class. You will also learn how to summarize your insights on one page, practice your presentations, and deliver them concisely with confidence.

(A) Bushido Code Now and Then

Understand the Bushido Code, and its relevance today.

(B) Creating the Samurai Body

Learn how Samurai cultivated physical and mental strength.

(C) Samurai Symbols

Appreciate the meaning of Samurai Crests, Flags, and Armor.

(D) Samurai Tea Ceremony

Experience how and why Samurai practiced Tea Ceremony.

(E) Samurai Films

Experience the drama of Samurai in history through films.

(F) Retelling Samurai Stories

Profile the dramatic events in the lives of famous Samurai.

(G) Ninia as Liberal Arts

Learn the Ninia Arts which helped them survive the Samurai.

(H) Budo Tourism

Learn the attraction of Japanese Budo to people worldwide.

During the time spent on each Section, try to capture summary notes for each Topic, and look for one topic in each Section that you will want to explore in depth on your final paper. Progress in your notes will help you estimate the time you will need to write your final paper, and avoid trying to write everything at the end of the semester. Late papers can result in a lower grade or even an F, so write and submit your papers on time.

A link will be provided for an online Mandala Chart containing all of the sections of the course for your Note Taking and to organize your paper. While this framework provides a common structure through which we can navigate the course, and in addition I will provide a pre-formatted MLA Style sheet and Paper Outline to structure your writing according to the grading criteria.

The better your notes, the easier it will be to write a good paper. Good notes also lead to good discussions. For ease of writing and grading I will provide a Word File pre-formatted in MLA Style, with the outline to fill in with your original research and writing.

Return to Face to Face Classes

In 2020 we were forced to conduct all of our classes Online, and while there were some limitations, we discovered some important advantages to Online training. The classes are recorded on Zoom and available for review until the end of the semester. However, students participating online miss out on the benefit of class interaction, and find it difficult to participate in an active way.

From Spring 2023 all classes will be conducted Face to Face, and you will not be able to get attendance or participate on Zoom, with exceptions made for those with delayed entry for Visa approval. We will make use of video to demonstrate what you have learned and to get feedback.

In-Person classes enable you to get direct feedback, enjoy Samurai club activities together with friends, and get to experience high-quality materials in Samurai Culture.

We hold as many as half of our classes in the YGU Library, in a soundproof room where we can conduct discussions and share insights without disturbing other students in the Library. I have ordered a collection of Graphic Novels (Manga) on Samurai History, as well as a number of beautifully illustrated books, which students have found to fun and stimulating to share. There are no long reading assignments, but students get an opportunity to share and present what they have learned from these resources.

For Face-to-Face Classes at iCLA, we ask that you follow iCLA guidelines and common sense, by spraying your hands, wearing a mask, checking body temperature before you enter the classroom.

FAQ on Grading for Students

College students in liberal arts colleges have a range of concerns regarding the assessment and grading of their work, including:

Clarity: Students often want clarity regarding the expectations of the assignment and the criteria that will be used to assess their work.

Consistency: Students are concerned about consistency in grading, mainly when assignments are graded differently by multiple professors.

Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year Transparency: Students want to know how their grades are calculated, and how much each assignment contributes to their final grade.

Feedback: Students value feedback on their work, particularly constructive and specific feedback.

With these legitimate concerns in mind, we have developed Rubrics for each course, and do our best to support our students in their learning.

However, this is a two-way process, and within the limits of support and resources we can provide, it only works if you do your part. The grade you achieve depends on understanding and meeting the criteria set by the professor of each course, not on how much effort you made or how badly you need a good grade to maintain your GPA.

At the beginning of the semester, you may not know what questions to ask. You may be quite busy adjusting to other courses and managing your daily life. You may feel that you don't even have time to think deeply about these questions.

We have got you covered. While this is the first time for you to take this course, I have been teaching it twice a year for over eight years to many hundreds of students from diverse backgrounds. If you are struggling with some aspect of the course, having difficulty understanding what you are expected to do, how your work will be evaluated, or how to get the most out of the course, you are not alone.

Based on extensive experience in designing and delivering this course, I have compiled my own list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

At the beginning of the course, we will address FAQ related to the following concerns:

Feedback on Individual Progress
Time required for Learning
How Grades are determined and Modules are Scored
What materials are required to take the class
Tips on accelerated learning
Consequences of Missing Class, Coming Late, or Leaving Early
Use of AI, Apps, Computers and Smart Phones in Class

I have extensive experience with Samurai Code and Culture, ranging from popular culture to story telling to actual practice. I have been studying Japanese Language as well as Aikido and Shodo (Calligraphy) for over 50 years, and currently have an 8th-dan in Aikido, a 10th-dan in Shodo, and a 2nd-dan in Iaido, the Art of Drawing the Sword. I am the Headquarters designated Vice-Chairman of the Japan Calligraphy Education Association, and have done Calligraphy Commissions for Erinji and Kawaguchiko Asama Ninja, both Temples and Shrines that are designated World Heritage Sites. I have been in more than a dozen Samurai Documentaries and national television broadcasts as commentator and navigator at historical sites, and my Calligraphy was used for the title page for these programs.

Participation as Navigator for 8 different NHK Journeys in Japan has given me direct experience on location of Samurai History, Culture, and Ninja. I have been interviewed about Samurai Culture on more than a dozen podcasts and nationally broadcast radio programs. I was a regular weekly commentator on Yamanashi Television for 5 years, often demonstrating or visiting sites with Samurai themes. I formed a Club at iCLA to build handmade Samurai armor from scratch, and for several years until the pandemic marched every head in the world's largest Samurai March, the Shingenko Matsuri, also appearing on the stage in the opening ceremony. I have done public demonstrations of both Calligraphy, Sword Arts, and Aikido, including an solo demonstration on the Kagura Stage at Asakusa Shrine in Tokyo, and at the Kyu Butokuden on the grounds of the Heian Shrine in Kyoto, as well as at the Nikkei Hall in Collaboration with a Bach Violinist sponsored by the Japan Culture Agency, and at the Kurodani Konkai Komyoji Temple in Kyoto for the 160th Anniversary of the Shinsengumi. I have a regular column in Japanese and English with video components on the Brush as the Sword of the Mind, and some of these videos have reached well over a million views on YouTube. One of them led to participation in reenactment of a famous Medieval Samurai March which covered 100 km in two days crossing two mountain passes. I serve on the Japan Sports Agency's Committee for Budo Tourism.

Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)

I explore these subjects deeply and have developed a network of Masters in many of these fields, some of whom we can call on as guest speakers. I am also responsible for organizing and conducting iEXPerience field trips for exchange students, many of which are connected to themes of Samurai Culture.

The VALUE Rubrics for Samurai Code and Culture are covered in the following ways:

CRITICAL THINKING

Understand how Samurai individuals can be portrayed as heroes or villains Learning the roots in Samurai Culture of contemporary Manga, Anime, and Video games

DROBLEM SOLVING

Understand how the Samurai used the Bushido Code to resolve problems Understand how the Samurai used technology in making armor, building castles, and managing resources

CREATIVE THINKING

Learn how practical wisdom was passed on through Samurai stories and parables Understand the sources of Spiritual inspiration for the Samurai in Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, and Christianity

INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE

Understand how the Samurai shaped and were shaped by Japanese Culture in different eras See Samurai customs and rituals in their cultural context in comparison to contemporary values

ORAL COMMUNICATION

Shared readings and discussions of Samurai Literature in the Library reading room Practicing and telling of Samurai stories on video

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Final Paper includes Mandala Notes on all topics covered in the course, Personal Benefits derived from each major section, Retelling of Samurai Stories, relevant illustrations, quotations, and references as evidence of your research, and how this learning, research and actions changed your perspective

QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Understanding health profiles of major Samurai figures from their behavior and lifestyle Use of Maps to understand geography, distances, and locations of Samurai events

1) The university's educational philosophy and objectives and the faculty objectives and goals.

You will be encouraged to be develop a Liberal Arts view of Samurai Code and Culture, which includes critical thinking about Samurai Values, virtual and actual experience with Samurai Culture, reading and discussion, as well as films and documentaries.

2) The academic perspectives and skills etc. the student is expected to acquire.

Students will get a broad exposure to from a Liberal Arts and experiential perspective to Bushido Code Now and Then, Creating the Samurai Body, Samurai Symbols, Samurai Tea Ceremony, Samurai Films, Retelling Samurai Stories, Ninja as Liberal Arts, and Budo Tourism.

3) What degree of mastery will the students reach and what will they acquire after the course.

The broad scope of topics ensures that you will experience, but not necessarily master the many skills and subjects that we will cover. However you will have an opportunity to go into greater depth in your research and in your final paper.

- 4) Relevance of the courses to the iCLA Diploma Policy (Graduation and degree awarding policy)
- 1. To Value Knowledge (Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge)

One of the hurdles in learning about Samurai Culture is that it may be quite different from your own, even for modern Japanese students. This extends to learning new words, ways of thinking about and moving the body, codes of behavior, symbols, armor, castles, and many cultural practices that may be very different, but remarkably are still preserved in modern Japan.

2. To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World (Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adapt to a changing world)

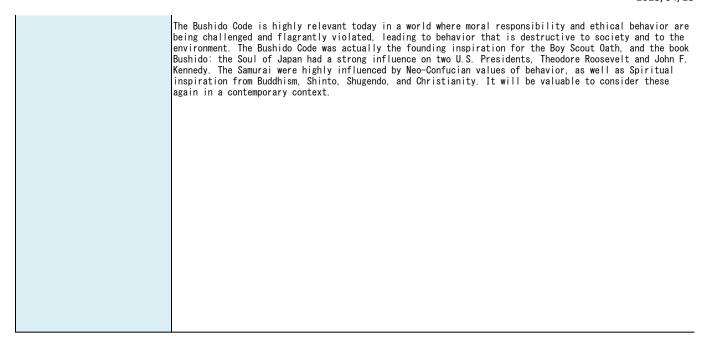
For Japanese students, this course will open your eyes to things about your own culture that you may never have seen or understood, and it will give you an opportunity to explain and demonstrate these things in English. For foreign students it will be a chance to engage your interest in Samurai from popular anime and games, learn the historical context and stories from which this was drawn.

3. To Believe in Collaboration (Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams)

We will make regular use of the Yamanashi Library for readings and discussions, in which each student will be able to select a book and passage of interest, and then summarize and present it to classmates. The exercises and experiences in elements of Japanese Culture are highly interactive, and fun to share with friends.

4. To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility (Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world)

Learning Goals



iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3/DP4

iCLA Diploma Policy

- (DP1) To Value Knowledge Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge
- (DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world
- (DP3) To Believe in Collaboration Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams
- (DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Active learning methods will be applied through interaction in small groups, retelling and discussing Samurai Stories and applications of the Bushido Code in different eras. Students will also experience Samurai Culture through Symbols, the graphic and physical elements of the culture, as well as explore how the Samurai moved through Posture, Etiquette, and Physical Presence.
Use of ICT in Class	Information and Communication Technology will be used in Class through sharing of Video in Documentaries and Samurai Films, as well as exploring the technologies employed in Samurai and Ninja Culture.
Use of ICT outside Class	Information and Communication Technology outside of class by Notetaking through the Mandala Chart Online, as well as digital research tools on Samurai Code and Culture.
Expected study hours outside class	As a 3-Credit Course meeting twice a week for 15 weeks, this course also covers a wide range of topics divided into 8 Sections. While a framework will be provided on which you must take good summary notes, you will have considerable freedom in exploring topics to write your final paper. It is recommended that you spend at least 2 hours a week in preparing and reviewing for the material that we covered in class, and to make sure that you are well prepared toward the end of the semester to write your paper. If class time is 60 hours, then expect to spend an additional 30 hours in practice and preparation outside of class, for a total of 90 hours during the semester.
Feedback Methods	Feedback will be given during discussions and group readings, and you will have opportunity to meet with me by appointment during my office hours on Wednesday afternoons, to get guidance on your notes and research topic. Hybrid classes will be streamed live and recorded on Zoom, so that you have the opportunity to review material covered in class.

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
MANDALA NOTES: Read Only Mandala file of Course notes.	20%	Notes must be filled out from Modules A~H with Sub-level.
PERSONAL BENEFIT: For each section describe your personal benefit, insight, or practical gain.	20%	Personal Benefits gained from each Module A~H.
SAMURAI STORIES: Write a short biography of a Samurai.	20%	Dilemmas, values, motivation, and hero's journey.
DAVINCIAN NOTEBOOK: Illustrated Analog or Digital Notebook.	20%	Notebook Organized by 7 DaVincian Principles and connected to Course Content.
VIDEO INTERVIEW: Interview yourself on Video answering Questions from your Notebook.	20%	Video Must be submitted as Shared Link from Speaking Mastery AI.

Required Textbook(s)	Students do not need to purchase a textbook, but are expected to make liberal use of books recommended in the YGU Library, excerpts of readings and PDFs provided online.
	Most of the books directly relevant to Samurai Code and Culture are on reserve on the shelves to the right of the main desk. This includes a wonderful selection of Graphic Novels on the Samurai, and many beautifully illustrated books.
	In some cases, PDFs of readings will be provided, and much of the needed information can be found online if not provided.
Other Reading Materials/URL	Numerous URLs will be provided with lessons as they are introduced, such as online documentaries, videos, websites, and reference materials.
Plagiarism Policy	Plagiarism is the dishonest presentation of the work of others as if it were one's own. Duplicate submission is also treated as plagiarism. Depending on nature of plagiarism you may fail the assignment or the course. Repeated act of plagiarism will be reported to the University which may apply additional penalties.
	Samurai Code and Culture will be approached on three levels, that of the dreamers in popular culture, the story tellers in history, and the practitioners engaged in a Samurai discipline.
	I highly recommend that you engage in the experiential part of the course. Your understanding and enjoyment will be greatly enhanced by physical involvement. Keep up with the notes for each class, so that you do not fall behind and find yourself short on ideas when it comes to writing your paper.
	To better prepare you for presentations and storytelling, you will have special access to an online video tool with which you can practice in private and polish the way you tell your story.
	The goal is that you deeply enjoy learning about many aspects of Samurai Code and Culture, and become particularly good at both speaking and writing about your favorite parts.
	The Mandala Chart will help you keep track of themes and topics, as well as add your notes as you go. It will also show me at the end of the semester to what extent you were engaged in the content during the course.
	I will provide specific guidelines on how to construct your DaVincian Notebook, applying the seven principles from the book How to Think Like Leonardo Da Vinci to make an illustrated notebook that will cover the content through a set process, with considerable freedom in the choice of sub-topics. It will supercharge your engagement through exercises connecting the principles to the content of the course.
Other Additional Notes	The Seven Principles of How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci, were authored by Michael J. Gelb. I was involved in producing the Japanese language edition of this book when it came out, have taken personal training even recently in 2023 from Michael Gelb, and I use the principles actively myself in my own quest to lifelong learning. The Seven Principles, which you will apply in your Notebook and in our regular class sessions are:
	1. Curiosità: An insatiably curious approach to life and an unrelenting quest for continuous learning. 2. Dimostrazione: A commitment to test knowledge through experience, persistence, and a willingness to learn from mistakes. 3. Sensazione: The continual refinement of the senses, especially sight, as the means to enliven
	experience. 4. Sfumato: A willingness to embrace ambiguity, paradox, and uncertainty. 5. Arte/Scienza: The development of the balance between science and art, logic and imagination. "Whole-brain thinking." 6. Corporalità: The cultivation of grace, ambidexterity, fitness, and poise.
	7. Connessione: A recognition of and appreciation for the interconnectedness of all things and phenomena; systems thinking.
	If you combine the resources that you will create between the Mandala Chart Course Notes and your DaVincian Notebook on Samurai Code and Culture, then you will easily be able to create the Video Interview from your own notes. I will explain how that can be done, and how the video must be submitted to be evaluated.

Class Schedule		
Class Number	Content	
	(A) Bushido Code Then and Now Understand the Bushido Code, and its relevance today.	
Class 1	(A1) BUSHIDO: The Soul of Japan, by Nitobe Inazo (A2) 8 Principles of the Bushido Code	
Class 2	(A) Bushido Code Then and Now Understand the Bushido Code, and its relevance today. (A3) Samurai Clan Codes	
	(A4) Dilemmas and Decisions	
Class 3	(A) Bushido Code Then and Now Understand the Bushido Code, and its relevance today. (A5) Loyalty in the Sengoku Period	
Class 3	(A6) Loyalty in Chushingura	
	(A) Bushido Code Then and Now Understand the Bushido Code, and its relevance today.	
Class 4	(A7) Loyalty in Shinsengumi (A8) Relevance of the Bushido Code Today	
	(B) Creating the Samurai Body Learn how Samurai cultivated physical and mental strength.	
Class 5	(B1) Health and wellness profiles of famous Samurai (B2) Art of Samurai Survival	
	(B) Creating the Samurai Body Learn how Samurai cultivated physical and mental strength.	
Class 6	(B3) Yojokun: Manual of a Samurai Doctor (B4) Basic concepts in the Samurai Body	
	(B) Creating the Samurai Body Learn how Samurai cultivated physical and mental strength.	
Class 7	(B5) A stable posture without fatigue (B6) Long breath long life	
	(B) Creating the Samurai Body Learn how Samurai cultivated physical and mental strength.	
Class 8	(B7) Free use of the joints and hands (B8) Connecting and training your body	
	(C) Samurai Symbols Appreciate the meaning of Samurai Crests, Flags, and Armor.	
Class 9	(C1) Every symbol has a meaning (C2) Family Crests	
	(C) Samurai Symbols Appreciate the meaning of Samurai Crests, Flags, and Armor.	
Class 10	(C3) Samurai Signatures (C4) Samurai Flags	
	(C) Samurai Symbols Appreciate the meaning of Samurai Crests, Flags, and Armor.	
Class 11	(C5) Samurai Armor (C6) Samurai Castles	

	(C) Samurai Symbols Appreciate the meaning of Samurai Crests, Flags, and Armor.
Class 12	(C7) Samurai Shosa: Etiquette
	(C8) Spectacular Accumulation
	(D) Samurai Tea Ceremony Experience how and why Samurai practiced Tea Ceremony.
Class 13	(D1) The Samurai and the Tea Master
	(D2) Tea Ceremony of Zen
	(D) Samurai Tea Ceremony Experience how and why Samurai practiced Tea Ceremony.
Class 14	(D3) Tea Ceremony of the Samurai
	(D4) Zen Gardens
	(D) Samurai Tea Ceremony Experience how and why Samurai practiced Tea Ceremony.
Class 15	(D5) Zen Calligraphy
	(D6) Tea Ceremony Implements
	(D) Samurai Tea Ceremony Experience how and why Samurai practiced Tea Ceremony.
Class 16	(D7) Tea Ceremony Ritual (D8) How you can experience and enjoy Tea Ceremony
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	(E) Samurai Films Experience the drama of Samurai in history through films.
Class 17	(E1) Ask Shogo (E2) Taiga Drama
	(E) Samurai Films Experience the drama of Samurai in history through films.
Class 18	(E3) Famous Scenes (E4) Famous Actors
	(E) Samurai Films Experience the drama of Samurai in history through films.
Class 19	(E5) Famous Directors (E6) Fiction and History
	(E) Samurai Films Experience the drama of Samurai in history through films.
Class 20	(E7) Influence on Anime and Manga (E8) Samurai Documentaries
	(F) Retelling Samurai Stories
	Profile the dramatic events in the lives of famous Samurai.
Class 21	(F1) Samurai Men (F2) Samurai Women
	(F) Retelling Samurai Stories
01 00	Profile the dramatic events in the lives of famous Samurai. (F3) Classic Samurai Tales
Class 22	(F4) Samurai Philosophy
	(F) Retelling Samurai Stories
Class 22	Profile the dramatic events in the lives of famous Samurai. (F5) Kamakura Period
Class 23	(F6) Edo Period

Class 24	(F) Retelling Samurai Stories Profile the dramatic events in the lives of famous Samurai. (F7) Bakumatsu Period (F8) Meiji period
Class 25	(G) Ninja as Liberal Arts Learn the Ninja Arts which helped them survive the Samurai. (G1) Ninja Truth
	(G2) Nindo Channel (G) Ninja as Liberal Arts Learn the Ninja Arts which helped them survive the Samurai.
Class 26	(G3) Journeys in Japan (G4) Three Stages of Engagement (G) Ninja as Liberal Arts Learn the Ninja Arts which helped them survive the Samurai.
Class 27	(G5) Nindo Mind (G6) Esoteric Ninja Arts (G) Ninja as Liberal Arts
Class 28	Learn the Ninja Arts which helped them survive the Samurai. (G7) Gathering and Coding Information (G8) Knowing People and Nature
Class 29	(H) Budo Tourism Learn the attraction of Japanese Budo to people worldwide. (H1) The Sportification of Budo (H2) The Budoification of Sport (H3) Budo Japan and Budo Tourism (H4) Aikido
Class 30	Complete Course Evaluation Online (20 minutes) (H) Budo Tourism Learn the attraction of Japanese Budo to people worldwide. (H5) Iaido (H6) Kobujutsu (H7) Karate (H8) Sumo