

Experiencing Japan

It has been almost one year and a half now since I came to study in Japan, and I somehow have managed to be accustomed with Japanese society and its people. Thanks to a course of Japanese culture I took last year which helped speed up this process. Besides that, there is something more about the course which makes it worth to be considered as “MY BEST CLASS” and be mentioned here.

First is the method in which the course was conducted. Consisting mainly of watching videos and movies on several aspects of modern Japan and Japanese made this class really enjoyable; and I could not help but was always looking forwards to attending it. The most important thing behind this is that once a student enjoys a class, he can learn the most out of it. And, this is what happened to me. By attending this class, I have not only understood a lot more about Japanese culture, but also have learned to appreciate it as a whole. Meanwhile, as the class was a part of Japanese language intensive course, it helped improve my Japanese, particularly listening skill. In addition, some questions were asked both orally and in writing so that the students could give their opinion on particular topics shown in the videos. This, in turns, helped a lot with our critical thinking ability.

Second is the content of the course itself. The material contained both documentary films and Japanese movies with a variety of topics including Japanese traditional arts (Neputa Painter, From Swords to Factories), Japanese Education (Cram School, Young Baseball Heroes), Japanese Family (It’s Tough To Be a Man, The Family Game, Whisper of the Heart, Shall We Dance?, Departures), Japanese sport (Sumo: An American Portrait), and others (Woman Soldier, Grave of the Fireflies). This really satisfied me as I could experience many important aspects of Japanese culture through the videos shown while at the same time enjoying the screens, without the need for me to travel all over Japan or do extensive reading just to get to know such things. Also, some Japanese pop songs were also taught during the course, particularly the most popular ever, Ue o Muite Arukou by Kyu Sakamoto. This helped make the class more enjoyable and a memorable one.

Last but not least, is the lecturer. As he majors in American literature and got his degree from the United States, his English is excellent and this is very helpful to me due to my poor Japanese. Also, he explained things clearly and is a very understanding teacher.

To sum up, although the class is not something related to my field of study, still I enjoyed it a lot as it was fun, interesting, and delightful. And, from it, I have learned a lot about Japan, a country which I always eager to experience even before I came here.