

Music 17Q
Perspectives in North American Taiko
Sano and Uyechi, Spring 2004

M W: 2:15 – 4:05 p.m., Braun 106 (M), Braun Rehearsal Hall (W)
4 units

Course Syllabus

Taiko, used here to refer to performance ensemble drumming using the taiko, or Japanese drum, is a relative newcomer to the American music scene. The emergence of the first North American groups coincided with increased activism in the Japanese American community and, to some, is symbolic of Japanese American identity. To others, North American taiko is associated with Japanese American Buddhism, and to others taiko is a performance art rooted in Japan.

In this course we will explore the musical, cultural, historical, and political perspectives of taiko in North America through drumming (hands-on experience), readings, class discussions, workshops, and a research project. With taiko as the focal point, we will learn about Japanese music and Japanese American history, and explore relations between performance, cultural expression, community, and identity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students must attend all workshops and complete all assignments to receive credit for the course.

Reaction Papers	(30%)
Midterm	(20%)
Research Project	(40%)
Attendance/Participation	(10%)

COURSE FEE

\$30 to partially cover cost of bachi, bachi bag, concert tickets, workshop fees, gas and parking for drivers.

READINGS

1. Course reader available at the Stanford Bookstore.
2. *Strangers From a Different Shore: A History of Asian Americans*. Ronald Takaki. 1989. Penguin Books.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructors	Steve Sano	Linda Uyechi
Office	Braun 120	
Office Phone	723-1570	
Phone	494-1321	494-1321 (8 a.m. – 10 p.m.)
Email	sano@leland	linda.uyechi@stanfordalumni.org

COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1 (March 31)

Wednesday Introduction: What is North American Taiko?

Reading Terada, Y. 2001. Shifting Identities of Taiko Music in North America. 37-52.
Takaki, R. 1989. Chapt. 1: From A Different Shore. 3-18.

WEEK 2 (April 5 and 7)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Japanese Folk Tradition
Taiko in Japan, pre-1950, festivals (Shinto, Buddhist). Japanese drumming tradition: *Miyake, Chichibu Yataibayashi, Hachijo, Gojinjo Taiko*.

Reading Fujie, L. 1992. East Asia/Japan.
Nelson, J. 1996. A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine. pp. 3-12, 25-33.
Ashkenazi, M. 1993. Matsuri: Festivals of a Japanese Town. pp. 16-22.
Senshin Buddhist Temple. 1999. Bon Odori in Japan.
Gould, M. 1998. Taiko Classification and Manufacturing.
Mallin, L. 1993. Wood & skin: The making of taiko drums.

REACTION PAPER 1 (TAIKO AUTOBIOGRAPHY) DUE

Wednesday Practicum: Performance Basics 1
Centering, *hara* (center of energy), *kiai* (vocalizing), *sukeroku* stance, *oroshi*, drum roll, *Renshuu* demonstration.

Reading Kodani, M. 1979. Notation Systems.
Yamaoka, S. The Art and the Way of Hara.

WEEK 3 (April 12 and 14)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Kumidaiko
Post-war taiko in Japan. *Sukeroku* and *Osuwa* styles.

Reading Endo, K. 1999. History of Sukeroku Taiko.
Coutts-Smith, M. 1997. Children of the Drum.
Barakan, P. 1995. Discussion: A Woman Playing Japanese Drums.

Wednesday Practicum: Performance Basics 2
Kuchishoka (song syllabary). Song: *Renshu Taiko* (S. Tanaka).

Reading Powell, K. 2003. The Apprenticeship of Embodied Knowledge in a Taiko Drumming Ensemble.

WEEK 4 (April 19 and 21)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Taiko in North America 1

Beginnings: San Francisco Taiko Dojo, Kinnara Taiko, San Jose Taiko.

- Reading** Kodani, M. 1979. Horaku. Taiko.
Senshin Buddhist Temple. 1999. A History of Bon Odori in Mainland America.
Otsuka, C. 1997. Outline of Two Groups: SFTD and SJT.

Wednesday Practicum: Performance Basics 3
Seiza. Renshuu variations.

- Reading** Takaki, R. 1989. Chapt. 4: Raising Cane. 132-178. [optional]
Takaki, R. 1989. Chapt. 5: Ethnic Solidarity. 179-229.

PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE

WORKSHOP 1: US-JAPAN TAIKO FESTIVAL
Saturday, 4/24, 7:00 p.m. Kabuki Theater, San Francisco.

WORKSHOP 2: SAN JOSE JAPANTOWN TOUR
Sunday, 4/25, 1 p.m. San Jose Nihonmachi.
SAN JOSE TAIKO: RHYTHM SPIRIT
Sunday, 4/25, 3 p.m. Campbell Heritage Theater, Campbell.

WEEK 5 (April 26 and 28)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Taiko in North America 2
Workshop 1 & 2 debriefing. North American Taiko.

- Reading** Bodnar & Miura. 1996. Geneology of North American Taiko.
Hayase, S. 1985. Taiko. 46-47.
Kobayashi, T. 1994. Heartbeat in the diaspora: Taiko and community. 24-26.
Ko, J. 1999. Drumming up a storm. 4-8.
Greenaway, J.E. 1994. Cultural copyright. 1-2.

Wednesday Guest Speaker: Wisa Uemura, San Jose Taiko.

- Reading** San Jose Taiko material.
Takaki, R. 1989. The Watershed of World War II. 358-405.

REACTION PAPER 2 (SFTD/SJT) DUE

WORKSHOP 3: San Jose Taiko Workshop and Nikkei Matsuri
Sunday, 5/2, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Okida Hall, San Jose.
11:30 – 1 p.m. San Jose *Nihonmachi*.

WEEK 6 (May 3 and 5)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Japanese American History

Early immigration. *Issei* and *Nisei* (1st and 2nd generation). World War II. Culture in the camps, post-internment.

Reading E.O. 9066.
Civilian Exclusion Order No. 82.
Assembly Centers and Internment Camps.
Takezawa, Y. 2000. *Children of Inmates*.
Tanforan [ZVC 8989] (View in Green.)
[Review Takaki readings.]

Wednesday Practicum: Performance Basics 4
Beta style. Matsuri Taiko.

REACTION PAPER 3 (SJT Workshop) DUE

WORKSHOP 4: STANFORD TAIKO
Saturday, 5/8, 8:00 p.m. Dinkelspiel Auditorium.

WEEK 7 (May 10 and 12)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Taiko in North America Review.
Stanford Taiko concert debriefing. Course review.

Reading [Review all previous readings.]

Wednesday **EXAM**
Taiko terms and history. Japanese American history. Performance basics.

WEEK 8 (May 17 and 19)

Monday Lecture/Discussion: Asian American Identity and the Arts

Reading Takaki, R. 1989. Chapt. 11: "Strangers" at the Gates Again. 406-421.
Takaki, R. 1989. Chapt. 12: Breaking Silences. 472-491.
Wei, W. 1993. *Creating an Asian American identity & Culture*. 44-71.

Wednesday Practicum: Performance Basics 5
Solo basics.

WEEK 9 (May 24 and 26)

Monday Student Presentations

Wednesday Student Presentations

WORKSHOP 5 (OPTIONAL): 10th Annual Collegiate Taiko Invitational

Sunday, 5/30, 2:30 p.m. Dinkelspiel Auditorium.
Featuring Stanford Taiko, UCLA Kyodo Taiko, UCI Jodaiko, and other
collegiate taiko groups.

WEEK 10 (May 31 and June 2)

Monday MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY: NO CLASS

Wednesday Wrap-up Discussion and Jam

FINAL PAPER DUE