

## Lecture 01 Orientations: Land & Language

### 1. Land

- a. Two basic orientations: part of Pacific basin; part of Asian land mass
- b. General terrain
  - Kantô (5000 sq. mi, 3.2 million acres): Edo/Tokyo area
  - Yamato/Kinki/Kinai/Kansai (310,000 acres): Kyoto, Osaka, Nara
  - Nôbi (460,000 acres): Ise Bay, Nagoya
- c. Water
  - Rivers and waterfalls
  - Wet rice paddies
  - Bathing
- d. Mountains
  - East/west divide through central Honshû.
  - At 12,461 feet, Mt. Fuji is Japan's highest.
  - Mountains are related to the dead, spirits & gods.
  - Procreative, sexual powers; Pilgrimages
- e. Climate and seasons
  - sharp seasonal changes
  - seasonality as a way of life: eg., hanami (cherry blossom viewing)

### 2. Language

- a. General characteristics
- b. Language of social ranks
- c. Sino–Japanese aspect of language
- d. World's Craziest Writing System

Iroha nioedo chirinuruwo	Though I smell the colorful blossoms, they are doomed to scatter
Wagayo tarezo tsunenaran	Who in the world exists forever?
Ui no okuyama kyô koete	Today I cross over the deep mountains of existence
Asaki yume miji eimo sezu	I shall no longer dream shallow dreams, no longer be drunk.