

## Courses Available: Japan Studies Core Courses (16 courses, 32 credits)

### Topics in Japanese Geography

The “Five Ws” are questions whose answers are considered basic in information-gathering. “Who” did that? “What” happened? “Where” did it take place? “When” did it take place? and “Why” did it happen? Geography can describe location information by answering the “Where?” question. Since the advent of the Internet era, geospatial technology has evolved to become a faster and more accurate method. Japanese Geography courses can create state-of-the-art neo-geographic communities in Japan for sharing correct geospatial information.

Title	Description
<b>Google/Ingress I</b> <b>– Beyond Google Earth</b> (Topics in Japanese Geography I)	Google Earth has changed the educational methods behind geography. It is a very useful visualization tool but only for the cyber world, not the real world. Recognizing this limitation, Google launched the Ingress system for mobile phones in 2012. Ingress can create opportunities for outdoor activities in the city. This course explains the state of Ingress in Japan for geospatial education and tourism.
<b>Safecast</b> <b>– State of Radiation Mapping in Japan</b> (Topics in Japanese Geography II)	Safecast is a global project working to empower people through data, primarily by mapping radiation levels and building a sensor network, enabling people to contribute to the data collected and freely using it. After the March 2011 earthquake in northeastern Japan and resulting nuclear situation, it became clear that people wanted more data than was available. Safecast has been building a radiation sensor network comprised of static and mobile sensors around Japan – both near the exclusion zone and elsewhere in the country. This course explores Japan’s recent situation concerning radiation and how to make common cause with global citizens.
<b>Google/Ingress II</b> <b>– The World Around You Is Not What It Seems</b> (Topics in Japanese Geography III)	Ingress is an augmented-reality large-scale multiplayer online role-playing game dependent on GPS/GNSS, created by Niantic Labs, a startup within Google. Meanwhile, JAXA of Japan is to complete a new positioning satellite system, the Quasi-Zenith Satellite System (QZSS), in 2018. This will cover Japan, Southeast Asia and Oceania. QZSS games dependent on GPS/GNSS will soon spread through geospatial innovations. This course shares Google’s strategy, technology, next-generation GPS/GNSS and state-of-the-art Geospatial gaming community in Japan.
<b>How to Mitigate Disasters in Communities Using Spatial Thinking</b> (Topics in Japanese Geography IV)	After the March 2011 earthquake in northeastern Japan, Japanese civic hackers launched various applications for disaster prevention and mitigation. In particular, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) launched a Global Disaster Risk Management “Hackathon” with geospatial information managed by The World Bank. These results have been shared with developing countries via the international community. In addition, geospatial data and spatial thinking methods can help create innovative applications. This course explores disaster prevention and mitigation in communities by using spatial thinking methods in cooperation with The World Bank.

## Topics in Japanese History

The Japanese History courses intend to enrich students' knowledge about Japan and its past and present. The courses cover a wide timeframe, from the Middle Ages to modern times, as well as a broad range of topics including the political roles of the samurai, the rising status of women and war memory. The courses also examine historical representations through films such as "The Last Samurai" and "Pearl Harbor." Students will gain a hands-on approach to history by conducting fieldwork and trips around the campus. Equipped with this knowledge of historical factors, both international and Japanese students will be able to improve mutual understanding based on a shared recognition of the past.

Title	Description
<b>History of Science and Technology in Japan</b> (Topics in Japanese History I)	From bullet trains to robotics, Japan boasts some of the world's most advanced technology. At the same time, recent events such as the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster have revealed problems in Japan's science community. How did Japan get to where it is today? This course examines the history of science and technology in Japan, mainly in the modern era.
<b>War and Peace in Japan</b> (Topics in Japanese History II)	The world today has been shaped by war, and Japan is no exception. This course surveys film, literature and visual representations including paintings and news media in order to understand the impact of war on 20th-century Japan. Students will also visit Tokyo museums and examine various wartime narratives.
<b>Representing the Past in Japan</b> (Topics in Japanese History III)	This course examines mainly popular representations of the past in film, literature and manga. Examples include books by historical-fiction author Shiba Ryūtarō and movies like "Pride" (Puraido: Unmei no Toki; 1998) and "The Eternal Zero" (Eien no Zero; 2013). It also investigates representations of war and trauma. In addition to the historical context regarding the relations between history and literature in Japan, as well as the politics of memory inherent in any historical representation, the course considers changing views within the field of history about representing the past.
<b>The Development of Japanese Civilization from a Global Perspective</b> (Topics in Japanese History IV)	This course offers a broad survey of Japanese history from the Jōmon to the modern era. It pays particular attention to the modern era from the fall of the Tokugawa Shogunate to the end of World War II. The course examines the development of Japan in the broader context of world history. Thus, it looks at the cultures of trade and interaction and the mutual perceptions between Japan and its neighbors, China and Korea. Similarly, it investigates Japanese relations with European nations from 1600 and eventually the U.S. from 1853 onward. Some of the questions the course seeks to answer include: What have the patterns of interaction been like between Japan and its Asian neighbors throughout history? What unique local factors contributed to the early development of technology and industry in Japan? What factors contributed to shaping a sense of Japanese nationalism or nationhood? What factors have shaped Japanese religious, political and popular thought over the centuries?

## Topics in Japanese Culture

The Japanese Culture courses introduce students to numerous intriguing facets of Japanese culture, ranging from an overall introduction, World Heritage Sites in Japan registered with UNESCO, to in-depth omnibus lectures on traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, including the “cool Japan” initiative. In the latter two courses, students will get a hands-on experience of traditional flower arrangement that they can practice in their home country, have opportunities to meet actors from traditional theater such as Kabuki, as well as learn first-hand from anime artists and robot theater performers.

Through courses in Japanese Culture, students will also learn how the Japanese interact with nature, culture and beliefs.

Title	Description
<b>Introduction to Japanese Culture</b> (Topics in Japanese Culture I)	Japanese culture has attracted many people in other countries who engage in Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki, Bunraku, architecture of shrines and temples, food culture (Washoku), Anime, Manga and Kawaii aesthetics. This course introduces students to traditional and modern Japanese culture in various fields, including theater, dance, literature, music, film, art and architecture. It aims to deepen understanding of major influences, such as the natural environment, social history and cultural exchange with other areas.
<b>Japanese World Heritage Sites</b> (Topics in Japanese Culture II)	This course introduces Japan’s World Heritage sites, both cultural and natural, listed by UNESCO. It explains how the Japanese appreciate what nature brings to their lives. Some representative sites are introduced, including possible visits to the recently listed Tomioka Silk Mill, which reveals the development of Japanese industry in the 19th century and how it was related to daily life at that time. The course also introduces Japanese Washoku cuisine, which has also been added to the World Intangible Cultural Heritage list, and demonstrates how Japanese food culture reflects appreciation of four seasons and culture at large. Included is a look at Japanese sweets, highlighting how the Japanese appreciate the beauty of changing seasons.
<b>Japanese Traditional Culture</b> (Topics in Japanese Culture III)	In this course, students will not only learn in detail about Japanese traditional arts such as flower arrangement, calligraphy, tea ceremony, Noh, Kyogen and Kabuki, but also acquire the ability to introduce Japanese culture to overseas. Guest speakers who are internationally active will lecture and demonstrate their art when possible. Students will also have opportunities to experience some traditional art such as flower arrangement, enabling them to show their skills overseas as a part of cultural exchange. The course allows students to deepen their understanding of the geographical and historical background of Japanese culture as well as how the Japanese appreciate and express beauty in art representations.
<b>Japanese Contemporary Culture – Cool Japan</b> (Topics in Japanese Culture IV)	The course introduces Japanese contemporary cultural features such as anime, fashion, music, robot theater and origami. It will also enable students to acquire skills to introduce Japanese contemporary culture globally. Guest speakers will demonstrate the “cool Japan” initiative and how Japanese contemporary art promotes cultural exchanges. Included in the course is a hands-on experience of origami. The course allows students to appreciate Japanese “hearts and minds” as reflected in contemporary culture.

## Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy

Japanese Economy, Business and Policy courses aim to facilitate a precise understanding of key aspects of the Japanese economy among international students. The four courses cover the most essential elements, believed to have contributed to the remarkable reconstruction and development of the economy in the latter half of the 20th century. The most essential elements are: (i) private sector efforts in technological innovation and management; (ii) the education system; (iii) macro-economic and industrial policies to strengthen competitiveness; and (iv) economic cooperation policy and its contribution to developing countries since the 1950s.

Title	Description
<b>Japanese Entrepreneurial Activities</b> (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy I)	This course primarily examines the activities of famous Japanese entrepreneurs, including the founders of Sony and Honda. The course also examines some structures and systems in the Japanese economy and industrial policy of Japanese government from studies of their activities. Through the course, students will be able to understand the essence of the Japanese economy.
<b>Japan's Education System</b> (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy II)	This course examines several topics concerning Japan's education system and related issues. It also makes a comparative review of issues in Japan and developing countries. Topics include Japan's education system, issues and the central administrative and budgetary system. The course also covers curricula, school management, efforts aimed at global human resource development, trends in international education cooperation, issues in developing countries and the World Bank's initiatives to provide education assistance to developing countries. The course will also involve presentations and group discussions to promote communication among students.
<b>Japanese Policy for National Economic Competitiveness</b> (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy III)	The course examines the economic policymaking process in Japan, based on the perspective of national economic competitiveness. Japan swiftly achieved economic development in Asia but faced various problems as well. This course examines how Japan dealt with these problems, considering the relationship between the economy and politics. Issues such as energy policy, trade liberalization, regulatory reform and international standardization are discussed.
<b>Japanese Economic Cooperation with Developing Countries</b> (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy IV)	Over the past 60 years, Japan has provided Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries in order to contribute to the peace, stability and prosperity of the international community. ODA is one of the most important diplomatic tools for the Japanese government. Assistance for self-help efforts is its philosophy on the basis of Japan's experience of reconstruction after World War II. On the other hand, the environment surrounding ODA is changing significantly with the rapid change of the political and security environment surrounding Japan. This course introduces the philosophy, transitions and features of Japan's ODA, focusing on some successful projects in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. Students will also have opportunities to study project formulation and post evaluation of ODA's projects through workshops.