



Course Descriptions for Japan Studies Courses

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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
Google/Ingress I – Beyond Google Earth (Topics in Japanese Geography I)	Google Earth has changed the educational method of geography. It is a very useful visualization tool, but only for the cyber world. Not for real world. Google has known this demerit on Google Earth, so they have launched the Ingress system on the mobile phone in 2012. The Ingress can make the chances for outdoor actives in the city. This course will explain the state of the Ingress in Japan for geospatial education and tourism.
Safecast – State of Radiation Mapping in Japan (Topics in Japanese Geography II)	This course will describe the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Powerplant disaster, its causes, its consequences for people and the environment, and the innovative response of the citizens' based environmental monitoring group SAFECAST. It will include lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops (building a GPS/data logging Geiger counter, and logging and mapping radiation data). A reading list will be provided, which will include chapters from relevant books, web reports, and online videos.
Google/Ingress II – The World Around You Is Not What It Seems (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.
How to Mitigate Disasters in Communities Using Spatial Thinking (Topics in Japanese Geography IV)	<p>In Japan there are various natural phenomena based on geographical condition. In order to mitigate the damage caused by disasters, it is necessary to prepare for protecting lives and properties in terms of creating buildings, spaces and education.</p> <p>Throughout the classes we will study about overview of the communities for disaster prevention or mitigation. We will also focus on "Bousai Trump" as a tool. It is effective to create the opportunity to think and talk about risks for people through the generations. Our objective in this class is that students will be able to make the proposal of the tools, services, or events to facilitate communications.</p> <p>Bousai Trump is playing cards. Through the Bousai Trump game, it provides the opportunity to think and surmise the way of self protection against disaster and various risks around the player. With "hazard" as trigger, the player is able to imagine what kind of "risks" does it take and how he or she can promote "recovery" after the incident occurred. The games in trump, such as Poker and Old Made (Baba-nuki), are familiar and well-known to many people, so Bousai Trump is easy to follow the consideration about</p>

	disaster prevention and mitigation.
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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
History of Science and Technology in Japan (Topics in Japanese History I)	This course examines Japanese history from the early Jōmon period to the modern era. It especially focuses on the history and development of religious and secular thought, as well as literature and the arts. Students read sections from famous works including the Kojiki, the Man'yōshū, and the Tale of Genji. In addition, students critically engage with a variety of secondary and primary sources, including excerpts from the Meiji Constitution (1889) and the Peace Preservation Law (1925).
War and Peace in Japan (Topics in Japanese History II)	This class examines the impacts of World War Two on Japanese society in the early postwar period (from 1945 to the mid-1950s). During this time, Japan underwent dramatic changes. Under the guidance of U.S. troops, who occupied the country from 1945 to 1952, Japan adopted a new constitution, held court trials for military leaders responsible for the war, and embraced a new relationship with America. These and other events shaped the development of the postwar Japanese state, and their impacts continue to resonate today. This course investigates how average Japanese people confronted the loss of the war and attempted to rebuild their lives. It looks at questions of war responsibility and guilt during this period and how this shaped later memories of the war. Finally, it deals with some of the major issues of historical memory today such as the Tokyo Trials, Article 9, and the emperor system.
Representing the Past in Japan (Topics in Japanese History III)	Japanese history has been shaped by its interactions with its East Asian neighbours and by its broader regional history. It is impossible to fully understand the place of Japan in the world and its international relations without considering this larger history of East Asia. The purpose of this course is to give students a comprehensive introduction to modern East Asian history and especially the histories of China, Korea, and Japan. The course examines various aspects of this history ranging from culture, society, philosophical thought and religion, politics, and the economy over a broad range from time from 1800 C.E. to post-World War Two. It analyzes regional and global trends such as the Cold War which shaped the historical trajectories of the area.
The Development of Japanese Civilization from a Global Perspective (Topics in Japanese History IV)	The world we live in today is a largely the result of historical forces that have shaped it. It is impossible to understand the present without understanding the past and especially the recent past. Therefore the purpose of this course is to give students a comprehensive introduction to modern Japanese history from the Tokugawa Era (1603 to 1868) until the present. We will discuss topics such as lifestyles in the Edo Era, Japan's early encounters with the West, the creation of a modern Japanese nation-state in the Meiji Era (1868 to 1912), industrialization, changing attitudes toward gender, imperialism and war, and post-World War Two economy and politics.

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
Introduction to Japanese Culture (Topics in Japanese Culture I)	“Culture” can be defined as a “way of life,” and every culture has its own uniqueness. In other words, various unique features characteristic to an ethnicity can be found throughout the world. Japanese culture is one of them. It has many unique features, and many people from different cultural backgrounds are attracted to it. This course will introduce Japanese culture by focusing on the close relationship between its people and the climate. Daily life in Japan has inevitably been defined and influenced by the four seasons. A haiku poem made up of seventeen syllables must contain one seasonal indicator in its 5-7-5-line pattern. In Japan, January is still in the dead of winter, and the cycle of the four seasons starts with spring.
Japanese World Heritage Sites (Topics in Japanese Culture II)	This course will introduce Japanese culture by focusing particularly on World Heritage Sites in Japan. It is designed to provide students with information on history, culture, art, religious beliefs, architecture and nature related to Japan’s world Heritage Sites.
Japanese Traditional Culture (Topics in Japanese Culture III)	This course focuses on Japanese traditional culture. It is designed to provide students with information on Japanese traditional culture on flower arrangement, calligraphy, tea ceremony, Kyogen, Kabuki and so on. The course will be taught by artists, performers and experts who are known internationally. Students will have the unique opportunities to listen to their experiences, their thinking and the background as well as to watch performances first hand. Depending on the topic, you will also have hands on experiences in the class workshops.
Japanese Contemporary Culture – Cool Japan (Topics in Japanese Culture IV)	This course focuses on Japanese contemporary culture, so called Cool Japan. It is designed to provide students with information about anime, ICT, fashion, musicals, origami and so on. It will enable the students to acquire the knowledge and skills to present Japanese contemporary culture globally. Experts and artists will present features of ‘cool Japan’ and show how Japanese contemporary culture and arts can promote cultural understanding. During this course, Students will also take part in workshops to gain experience of origami making etc. This will allow students to appreciate the Japanese heart and mind 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
The Trade and Economy (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy I)	<p>The modern economy of Japan has a few epoch-making events in terms of the democracy and market economy. The first is the Meiji restoration, or Meiji revolution that had been done by the domestic government under the pressure of Western countries, such as European countries, the United States and Russia.</p> <p>The second is the defeat of the World War II. Just after the war, Japanese government, as a defeated nation, had changed the policy of increasing wealth and military power into the democratic economy.</p> <p>Through these epochs, Japanese economy had been developing into the democratic economy although the fundamental ideals and principles of Japan have been not changed still now.</p> <p>There are some unique features in Japan. The first is the geophysical location of Japan as an island country, although it is next to East Asian Countries including China and Korea and so on. The second is that Japan is the homogeneous country along with a Japanese language, mono-cultural and a mutually trusting society. Therefore it might be true that Japanese people could be able to adapt themselves into the same economic and educational system with good efficiency, although the short of variety.</p> <p>The purpose of this course is to overview the Japanese economy through the Meiji era into the current times in terms of Japan's economic policy for both domestic economy and foreign trade.</p>
Economic Development and Finance in Post – WW II Japan (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy II)	<p>In this course, the process of achievement in reconstruction and development of post-war Japan's economy will be examined. Particular focus will be the several economic development stages in post-WWII era and the special role of development finance, especially Japan Development Bank that is considered to have played a substantial role in Japan's post-war economy for various aspects: implementing World Bank loans for reconstruction, financing leading industries in 1960's, promoting environmental sustainability more recently.</p>
Japanese Policy for National Economic Competitiveness (Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy III)	<p>In this course Japan's economic policy and its policy-making process through the high growth period after World War II up to the present will be examined. Particular attention will be paid at the concept of industrial policy that would contribute to enhance the national economic competitiveness. Policy issues such as energy policy, trade liberalization, and regulatory reforms are examples for considerations.</p>
Japanese Economic Cooperation with Developing Countries	<p>“Why are poor countries poor, while rich countries are rich?” “What can and should be done to make poor countries rich?” these are the questions over which human species have agonized, and we are still unable to find a decisive answer. Japan has been engaging in an endeavor to tackle these</p>

<p>(Topics in Japanese Economy, Business and Policy IV)</p>	<p>agendas for over sixty years since 1954, based on distinctive aid philosophy and by employing unique instruments.</p> <p>This course would examine Japan's unique approach to the development assistance in comparison to that of other bilateral and multilateral donors. In each session we would ask: What are the distinctive Japanese aid philosophy and aid instruments? How were they formulated and developed? Was Japan's unique approach effective in facilitating development? In addition, we would examine how Japan's aid changed over time, in response to the transformation of international environment as well as to Japan's own political and economic situations, and its future direction.</p>
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