

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Mon.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 101 (Business)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Global Business in Japan
Instructor	SHIMA Hirokazu(シマ ヒロカズ)
Course Description	<p>This is an introductory course in business administration that will focus on and analyze globally oriented companies in Japan. The course objective is to offer general knowledge of global management and operations with an emphasis on western perspectives among Japanese firms. Issues involving effective leadership in the global environment will also be discussed.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The class will be conducted in English, and students are required to both submit assignments and make presentations in English. Active participation is expected since the class will be conducted interactively.</p> <p>The main topics to be covered in this class are as follows:</p> <p>授業計画</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>第1回 Introduction</li> <li>第2回 The "Smell and Taste" of Japanese companies</li> <li>第3回 The culture of emotion</li> <li>第4回 Ther role of groupthink</li> <li>第5回 Using the art of the belly</li> <li>第6回 Management by intuition</li> <li>第7回 Identifying your company</li> <li>第8回 Mid-term presentation (Part 1)</li> <li>第9回 Mid-term presentation (Part 2)</li> <li>第10回 Focusing in on the right connection /Avoiding the second-class pitfall</li> <li>第11回 Fighting spirit/Going In with a Japanese connection</li> <li>第12回 Getting help from experts/The structure of a Japanese company</li> <li>第13回 Final presentation (1)</li> <li>第14回 Final presentation (2)</li> </ul> <p>Note: The content of this course outline is subject to change, and it is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance and accuracy of information. Also, this course has a Google site. Students will be given materials and assignments for each class, so please access Google Meet from the first class. Group interviews and discussions will be held frequently using Google Meet and/or in class. Generative AI use will be addressed separately, and to be discussed in class at the appropriate time.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grades will be based on class participation (20%), mid-term presentation (40%), and final presentation (40%).
Textbooks	<p>Boye Lafayette De Mente, BUSINESS GUIDE TO JAPAN, Tuttle Publishing, 1989  Handouts will be provided on a continuous basis</p> <p>References;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yamakuse Yoji, Mike Mania, Michael Brase, ALL TOO PERFECT JAPANESE, IBC Publishing, 2011</li> <li>Charles W. L. Hill, INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS (International Edition, 5TH ed.), McGraw Hill, 2004</li> <li>Warren J. Keegan and Mark C. Green, GLOBAL MARKETING (4TH ed.), Pearson International Edition, 2005</li> <li>Jeffrey K. Liker and David Meier, THE TOYOTA WAY, McGraw Hill, 2006</li> </ul>

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 103 (Business)
Course Subtitle	Business Environment in Japan
Instructor	Wu Yun(ウ- ユイン)
Course Description	<p>This course provides an overview of Japan's industrialization after the Russo-Japanese War to facilitate a nuanced understanding of the historical forces that have shaped Japanese business practices and strategies. Students are encouraged to explore changes in the political, economic, social, and technological environment (PEST) and their impact on the development of Japanese business in each historical period. By analyzing the impact of these factors on business activities, students will gain insights into how business in Japan has evolved.</p> <p>※ About the use of generative AI, separate instructions will be provided by the course instructor.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The class will be conducted in English, and students are required to submit written assignments and give presentations in English. Active participation in frequent group discussions will also be required.</p> <p>Note: The course content is subject to change and may be revised based on student feedback and engagement.</p> <p>Week1 Introduction  Week2 Industrialization in the Meiji Period  Week3 Economic Growth and Business Circles after the Russo-Japanese War  Week4 Business Expansion in the Interwar Period  Week5 Urbanization and the Rise of Urban Markets  Week6 Mid-term Presentations(part 1)  Week7 Mid-term Presentations(part 2)  Week8 Business under Wartime Economic Controls  Week9 Corporate Transformation in the Postwar Reconstruction Period  Week10 The Popularization of Japanese Management during High Economic Growth  Week11 Groupwork: Topic Selection and Research for Final Presentation  Week12 Groupwork: Final Presentation Preparation  Week13 Final Presentation (part 1)  Week14 Final Presentation (part 2)</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Grades will be determined by contributions to class activities, such as group work, discussions, presentations, and the final report.</p> <p>※Using text or other outputs generated by AI as-is is strictly prohibited. Any violation of this rule will result in appropriate measures, including the denial of course credit.</p>
Textbooks	No textbooks are required, handouts will be provided on a continuous basis.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 105 (Business)
Course Subtitle	The contemporary Japan Business Landscape : summarizing the key point
Instructor	TAKITA Yoichi(タキタ ヨウイチ)
Course Description	<p>This course explores the business environment surrounding Japanese companies as well as actual business practices in Japan.</p> <p>Students will acquire foundational knowledge of corporations and management while also studying the economic and social contexts that influence businesses. Lectures by external experts will provide valuable real-world insights into current developments and help deepen understanding of what is actually happening in the field.</p>
Syllabus	<p>This course will be conducted entirely in English. Students are required to attend all classes and deliver presentations in English.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction: Japan's current business environment as of 2026 序説</li> <li>2. Macroeconomic Situation: Escape from deflationary stagnation マクロ経済</li> <li>3. Business: Companies shifting to offense 企業活動の全体像</li> <li>4. The political landscape surrounding companies 政治・行政環境</li> <li>5. Theoretical considerations and historical background 理論・歴史考察</li> <li>6. Women's empowerment and transformation of corporate culture 女性進出</li> <li>7. Corporate governance and management reform 企業統治改革</li> <li>8. Midterm presentation 中間報告</li> <li>9. Theoretical considerations and historical background 理論・歴史考察</li> <li>10. Global expansion and risk management 海外活動・リスク管理</li> <li>11. Adaptation to changes in the international environment 国際環境対応</li> <li>12. Enhancement of corporate financial efficiency 財務改革</li> <li>13. Theoretical considerations and historical background 理論・歴史考察</li> <li>14. Final presentation 最終報告</li> </ol> <p>Note The content of this course outline is subject to change. And it is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance and accuracy of information.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grade will be based on class participation (30%) and presentation (70%).
Textbooks	Course materials will be distributed on an ongoing basis as required during the sessions.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Mon.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 116 (Sociology)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Japanese Culture and Hospitality
Instructor	SHIMA Hirokazu(シマ ヒロカズ)

Course Description	<p>This is an introductory course in Japanology that will focus on and analyze socio-cultural aspects of the Japanese lifestyle. The course objective is to offer general knowledge of Japanese society and hospitality called Omotenashi with an emphasis on Japanese perspectives among the tourism industry. A typical class consists of the instructor giving lectures, audio-visual presentations, and the students having small group discussions.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The class will be conducted in English, and students are required to submit assignments and make presentations in English. Active participation is expected for the class as it will be conducted interactively.</p> <p>The main topics to be covered in this class are as follows:</p> <p>第1回 Introduction to the course      第2回 A year in Japan: a beginning a new life in April to prepare for the next life in March      第3回 Basics of daily life: Family, housing, and culinary life      第4回 Living in Japan: Enjoying daily life      第5回 Everyday manners: Ceremonial occasions, unwritten rules, and expressions of emotion.      第6回 Harmony and omotenashi      第7回 Mid-term presentation (Part 1)      第8回 Mid-term presentation (Part 2)      第9回 Samurai legacies/When and how to bow      第10回 Dining and omotenashi/The importance of gift-giving      第11回 Expressing appreciation      第12回 Final presentation (Part1)      第13回 Final presentation (Part2)      第14回 Additional discussion</p> <p>Note: The content of this course outline is subject to change, and it is revised on an ongoing basis to ensure relevance and accuracy of information. Also, this course has a Google site. Students will be given materials and assignments for each class, so please access Google Meet from the first class. Group interviews and discussions will be held frequently using Google Meet and/or in class. Generative AI use will be addressed separately, and to be discussed in class at the appropriate time.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Grades will be based on class participation (20%), mid-term presentation (40%), and final presentation (40%).
Textbooks	<p>Boye Lafayette De Mente, "Etiquette Guide to Japan," Tuttle Publishing      ISBN 978-4-8053-1361-9</p> <p>Additional handouts will be provided on a continuous basis.</p>

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Tue.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 201 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Contemporary Issues in Japan (in English)
Instructor	Glasspool Lucy(グラスプールルーシー)

Course Description	<p>This course will enable students to explore contemporary social and culture issues in Japan using the English language. It aims to encourage critical thinking through analysis of Japanese pop culture media and practices, including TV programmes, manga and anime, magazines, sport, fashion, and so on. Students will have the opportunity to study the media and pop culture texts of most interest to them.</p> <p>Students will prepare for each week by doing short readings or viewings in English, as well as their own independent research on upcoming topics. In the class session they will join in discussion activities before listening to a short lecture. They will then expand their critical inquiry into the topic by further independent study activities, including their own research. This will be shared in short writing/video assignments and form posts in which students can formalize their ideas*.</p> <p>*Final class date will be different for 4-year degree students, who have a 15-week semester. International 1-year programme students will be leaving earlier after Week 14.</p> <p>Classes will be held face to face in principle, except Week 14, which will be online.</p> <p>*In this class, the use of AI for the purposes of language translation or generation is not permitted.*</p> <p>Class preparation time will be 180 minutes per week.</p> <p>This course is entirely taught in English (外国語のみによる授業).</p>

Syllabus	<p>Week 1 Orientation Introduction to the course and issues. Needs assessment and guidance for online learning</p> <p>Week 2 Why study pop culture? What media and pop practices can tell us about a culture</p> <p>Week 3 Unit 1: Gender 1 Gender and manga</p> <p>Week 4 Unit 1: Gender 2 Gender and television</p> <p>Week 5 Unit 1: Gender 3 Gender and sport / fashion</p> <p>Week 6 Unit 2: Sexuality 1 Sexuality and manga</p> <p>Week 7 Unit 2: Sexuality 2 Sexuality and television</p> <p>Week 8 Midterm activity Short individual presentation/discussion on pop culture and gender/sexuality</p> <p>Week 9 Unit 3: Nationality 1 Ethnicity/nationality in Japanese media</p> <p>Week 10 Unit 3: Nationality 2 Representations of Japaneseness in foreign media / foreignness in Japanese media</p> <p>Week 11 Unit 3: Nationality 3 Cool Japan and the Olympics</p> <p>Week 12 Pop culture and tourism Contents tourism and fandom</p> <p>Week 13 Final activity Research presentation (international students present first)</p> <p>Week 14 Final activity 2 (online) Research presentation (4-year degree NUFS students)</p> <p>Week 15 Course review Review of course issues and presentations (4-year degree NUFS students only)</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Active participation (attendance, participation in class): 20%
	Continuous assessment (homework assignments): 30%
	Midterm activity (introduction to topic of interest, discussion): 20%
	Final activity (presentation on topic of choice): 30%

Textbooks	Instructor's own material
	* Any student use of AI-generated content constitutes academic misconduct.*

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.1Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 202 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japan from the Perspective of Tourism
Instructor	Jakub E. Marszalenko(ヤコブ・マルシャレンコ)
Course Description	<p>In this course, students will explore different aspects of traditional and contemporary Japan from the perspective of tourism. Rather than merely focusing on well-known themes in traditional Japan, such as sumo, sake, or the samurai culture, students will try to understand the diverse nature of the culture(s) of the Japanese Archipelago. The themes covered in the course will include Japan's regional diversity, nature and wildlife of Japan, as well as cultural sites and traditions enjoyed by both Japanese and overseas visitors. Students will be expected to prepare each week before class for 180 minutes.</p>
Syllabus	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01. Introduction to the course and requirements</li> <li>02. UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Japan</li> <li>03. Religious Heritage (1): Shinto and Buddhism</li> <li>04. Religious Heritage (2): Christianity</li> <li>05. Historical Heritage (1): Medieval Sites</li> <li>06. Historical Heritage (2): Dark Tourism</li> <li>07. Local and Indigenous Cultures (1): Southern Japan</li> <li>08. Local and Indigenous Cultures (2): The Ainu</li> <li>09. Wildlife and Nature in Japan (1): Hokkaido</li> <li>10. Wildlife and Nature in Japan (2): Tokyo's Wild Side</li> <li>11. Intangible World Heritage in Japan</li> <li>12. Student Presentations (Groups 1-4)</li> <li>13. Student Presentations (Groups 5-8)</li> <li>14. Final Test and Discussion</li> </ol>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Final Presentation: 30%</p> <p>Assignments: 30%</p> <p>Final Test: 30%</p> <p>In-class Performance and Participation: 10%</p>
Textbooks	All class materials will be provided by the instructor.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 203 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Reading Japanese Society Through Contemporary Short Fiction
Instructor	Alessandro G. Gerevini(アレッサンドロ・ジエラード・ゲレビニ)

Course Description	Course Description
	<p>This course examines contemporary social and cultural issues in Japan through the study of short stories written by major contemporary Japanese authors and read in English translation. Students will develop critical thinking skills by closely reading and analyzing literary texts, with particular attention to how these works engage with social themes and problems in modern Japanese society.</p>
Course Description	Course Format and Learning Activities
	<p>Class sessions will primarily consist of student presentations, followed by structured, instructor-guided discussion activities.</p>
	<p>Throughout the semester, students will work in groups to prepare and deliver at least one formal presentation on a selected short story. These presentations will focus on the analysis of the text's principal themes and their relationship to contemporary social issues in Japan.</p>
	<p>Students' comprehension and analytical abilities will be assessed through group presentations and active participation in class discussions.</p>
	<p>The titles of the short stories to be presented by the students during the course will be confirmed at the beginning of the semester, based on the students' specific interests. Therefore, the titles proposed in this syllabus are only indicative and may be changed, or the presentations may be delivered in a different order.</p>
	<p>Generative AI use is permitted under specific conditions.</p>
	<p>Week 1: Class presentations and students introductions.</p>
	<p>Week 2: Defining the presentation schedule. Grouping. Explanation of the required presentation structure, to be used as a model.</p>
	<p>Week 3: Screening the first part of a Japanese movie.</p>
	<p>Week 4: Screening the second part of a Japanese movie. Discussion about the topics.</p>
	<p>Week 5: Student presentation 1. Discussion. YOSHIMOTO, Banana, "Blood and water"</p>
	<p>Week 6: Student presentation 2. Discussion. KANEHARA, Hitomi, "Snakes &amp; earrings"</p>
	<p>Week 7: Student presentation 3. Discussion. MURAKAMI, Haruki</p>
	<p>Week 8: Student presentation 4. Discussion. YANG, Yi, "Wan-chan"</p>
	<p>Week 9: Student presentation 5. Discussion. KOIKE, Masayo, "Genjitsu House"</p>
	<p>Week 10: Student presentation 6. Discussion. ISHII Shinji, "When the bowling pins stand"</p>
	<p>Week 11: Student presentation 7. Discussion. FUJINO Chiya, "Her room"</p>
	<p>Week 12: Student presentation 8. Discussion. OGAWA, Yoko, "Pregnancy diary"</p>
	<p>Week 13: Student presentation 9. Discussion. MURATA, Sayaka, "Convenience store woman"</p>
	<p>Week 14 (online): Student presentation 10. Discussion. KAWAGUCHI, Toshikazu, "Before the coffee gets cold"</p>

Evaluation Criteria	<p>Active participation (attendance, participation in class discussions): 20%</p> <p>Homework assignments: 20%</p> <p>Presentation(s): 60%</p>
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Textbooks	<p>Students are not required to purchase any books for this course. (However they may do so if they wish). All assigned stories will be distributed by the instructor. Some of the stories are included in the following collections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) "Short Stories in Japanese", EMMERICH M. (ed. by), Penguin Books, New York, 2011.</li> <li>2) "Inside and other short fiction", LAYNE C. (ed. by), Kodansha International, Tokyo, 2006.</li> <li>3) "The book of Tokyo", EMMERICH M. et al. (ed. by), Comma Press, Great Britain, 2015.</li> </ol>
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Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 207 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japan and the World: Art, Literature and Contemporary Culture
Instructor	ELLIS Toshiko(エリス トシコ)
Course Description	<p>The aim of this course is to offer opportunities for students to familiarize themselves with materials related to Japanese culture and society. In the first part of the semester, we will discuss the basics of traditional Japanese world view, paying particular attention to the relationship between nature and humans, looking into architecture and gardening. We will then move on to the modern period and will also discuss the state of Japanese culture today. For reading, we will be dealing with materials from a variety of genres including traditional haiku poetry, fairytales and some contemporary writing.</p>
Syllabus	<p>This is a combined class for both local and international students.</p> <p>Students will be given materials in class, on which they will be asked to give comments. The class will consist of lectures, discussion and mini-presentations.</p> <p>Materials will be given in English or Japanese. English translation will be provided for materials written in Japanese.</p> <p>The class will be conducted in English, though minimum explanation will be given in Japanese where necessary.</p> <p>Class participation is essential. Students are expected to actively participate in classroom discussions.</p> <p>Use of Generative AI for class preparation or essay writing is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>The following is a tentative schedule. Materials are subject to change depending on the interest of students.</p> <p>Week 1 Introduction  Week 2 Traditional Japanese worldview: Shinto and Buddhism  Week 3 Traditional Japanese haiku: What makes haiku Japanese? How is it related to contemporary sensibility?  Week 4 Japanese architecture and gardening I: Introduction  Week 5 Japanese architecture and gardening II: Reading "In Praise of Shadows"  Week 6 Summary session: On traditional Japanese aesthetics  Week 7 Japanese folklore: "Hoichi, the Earless" (short film)  Week 8 Japanese fairytale: "Momotaro" (Peach boy)  Week 9 Japanese fairytale (2): Modern rewriting  Week 10 Contemporary short story  Week 11 Contemporary Japanese culture I: From the 1960s to the present  Week 12 Contemporary Japanese culture II: What is happening in Japan today?  Week 13 Japan in world context  Week 14 Summary discussion (online)</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Class participation and response paper: 40%, Final Essay: 60%
Textbooks	Texts will be provided in class.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Mon.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 209 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Japanese Literature
Instructor	Ryan Morrison(ライアン モリソン)

Course Description	<p>All the assignments and readings and lectures will be distributed via Google Classrooms! There will be one [relatively short] assigned Japanese literary masterpiece per week! You may familiarize yourself with my Youtube Channel immediately, and notify me in advance of any works you would like to read!</p> <p>In this course students will a) become familiar with a handful of representative literary works from the pre-Meiji, Meiji, Taishō, Shōwa, and Heisei periods, b) develop critical skills, c) improve their writing, d) increase their knowledge of Japanese culture, history, and literature, and e) grow accustomed to expressing their ideas in a class discussion setting.</p> <p>Update: Number of preparatory hours per week : 1 ~ 3 hours. Classes will be conducted via Google Classroom (諸課題配布), with links to my Youtube Video Lectures. All instructions and explanations will be provided through Google Classroom. This class will be very easy to follow so long as you check Google Classroom regularly.</p> <p><b>Attendance:</b> Regular attendance is required for face-to-face classes. Pop quizzes may be given.</p> <p><b>The Class:</b> I will begin each class with some prefatory remarks about the assigned reading. In general, my remarks will be limited to general historical and literary context (i.e., the "background stuff" you need to know in order to appreciate the text), as I prefer to let students develop and share their own ideas and interpretations.</p> <p><b>Group Discussions:</b> Following my short lecture, students will break up into groups of three to five students (depending on class size) and discuss for 20-30 minutes their assigned question(s). Following this, one member from each group will take turns presenting their answers to the entire class. Students are free to challenge or question the presenter.</p> <p><b>Two Short Essays:</b> You will submit three short essays at various points in the semester. See "Short Essay Instructions" (on Moodle) for details.</p> <p><b>Office Hours:</b> Bldg 2, Floor 5. Thursday 3rd period. Email in advance!</p> <p><b>Language:</b> Readings, discussions, quizzes, and essays will all be in English. While knowledge of Japanese is not a prerequisite for enrollment in the class, students are encouraged to read the stories in the original as well. Japanese students may submit their assignments/essays in Japanese.</p> <p><b>Net Sources:</b> In recent years the Internet has become an invaluable resource for the study of Japanese literature. I expect students to use online sources such as Aozora Bunko, JSTOR, CiNii, and Project Muse.</p>
	Students will become familiar with the major works of Japanese literature, and learn how to analyze and interpret those works.
	Day 1: Introduction: Morrison's 13 rules of narrative; semester goals; form groups. 第2回
	Day 2: Pre-Meiji reading 第3回
	Day 3: Pre-Meiji reading (cont.) 第4回
	Day 4: Meiji reading 第5回
	Day 5: Meiji reading 第6回
	Day 6: Related Film 第7回
	Day 7: Taishō reading 第8回
	Day 8: Taishō reading (cont.); first essay deadline 第9回
	Day 9: Shōwa reading 1 第10回
	Day 10: Shōwa reading 1 (cont.) 第11回
	Day 11: Shōwa reading 2 第12回
	Day 12: Shōwa reading 2 第13回
	Day 13: Heisei reading 1 第14回
	Day 14: Heisei reading 2

Syllabus	<p>Students will become familiar with the major works of Japanese literature, and learn how to analyze and interpret those works.</p> <p>Day 1: Introduction: Morrison's 13 rules of narrative; semester goals; form groups. 第2回</p> <p>Day 2: Pre-Meiji reading 第3回</p> <p>Day 3: Pre-Meiji reading (cont.) 第4回</p> <p>Day 4: Meiji reading 第5回</p> <p>Day 5: Meiji reading 第6回</p> <p>Day 6: Related Film 第7回</p> <p>Day 7: Taishō reading 第8回</p> <p>Day 8: Taishō reading (cont.); first essay deadline 第9回</p> <p>Day 9: Shōwa reading 1 第10回</p> <p>Day 10: Shōwa reading 1 (cont.) 第11回</p> <p>Day 11: Shōwa reading 2 第12回</p> <p>Day 12: Shōwa reading 2 第13回</p> <p>Day 13: Heisei reading 1 第14回</p> <p>Day 14: Heisei reading 2</p>
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Evaluation Criteria	Grading: Class Assignments & Quizzes: 40%. Final Essay & Assignments: 50%. Participation: 10%.
Textbooks	Assigned Texts: You do not have to purchase any books for this class. All assigned stories—both the original Japanese and the English translation—will be distributed via Google Classroom, as PDF files. My video lectures will be posted on my youtube channel: <a href="https://bit.ly/3KR2QTJ">https://bit.ly/3KR2QTJ</a> . Study Guides: There is a study guide for each assigned reading. Use the study guides as you read the stories. Group discussions will proceed from the problems/questions raised in these guides.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Thu.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 212 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature- Meiji and Taishō
Instructor	Raymond Gordon Rees(レイモンド・ゴードン・リース)

Course Description	<p>This course is a survey of modern Japanese literature from the Meiji period (1868) to the present, with primary emphasis on works written during the Meiji and Taishō eras (1868–1926). Students will read translated short stories in order to develop skills in close reading and interpretation of modern Japanese literary prose.</p> <p>Through these works, students will gain background knowledge of modern Japanese society and culture and examine major historical events that shaped literary production during this period. Literary texts will be studied in relation to their social, historical, and cultural contexts.</p> <p>By the end of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify and explain major themes in modern Japanese literature.</li> <li>2. Recognize important authors and literary trends of the Meiji and Taishō eras.</li> <li>3. Analyze modern Japanese literary works within their social and historical contexts.</li> <li>4. Write a basic literary analysis and discuss key elements of the short story, such as theme, character, setting, and narrative technique.</li> </ol>
Syllabus	<p>This course is conducted through a combination of short lectures, student presentations, films, and class discussions based on the assigned readings. Lectures provide historical, cultural, and literary background necessary for understanding the texts. Students are encouraged to participate actively by answering questions and offering comments during class.</p> <p>Students are required to complete all assigned readings in advance and prepare written responses to reading comprehension and discussion questions. Class activities include whole-class discussion as well as small student-led discussion groups (“literary circles”) designed to enhance reading comprehension and engagement with literary texts.</p> <p>Google Classroom is used to distribute materials and manage homework assignments and quizzes. In principle, this course is taught face-to-face. Each student is required to give one PowerPoint presentation on an assigned topic during the semester.</p> <p><b>第1回</b>  Course guidance and introduction to Meiji Japan  Overview of the course  Meiji and Taishō Japan: historical background  Reading and discussion: “The Last Testament of Okitsu Yagoemon”  Homework:  Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p> <p><b>第2回</b>  Mori Ōgai and the ethics of modernization  Mori Ōgai as a pioneer of modern Japanese literature  Loyalty, duty, and the samurai ethic  Reading and discussion: “The Boat on the River Takase”  Homework:  Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p> <p><b>第3回</b>  Education, medicine, and moral conflict in Meiji literature  Education and overseas learning missions in the Meiji era  Euthanasia and ethical debates  Short reaction paper: “The Boat on the River Takase”  Reading: “The Spider Thread”  Homework:  Read: “Hell Screen” (assigned pages)  Prepare responses to assigned reading questions</p> <p><b>Week 4</b>  Akutagawa Ryūnosuke and the aesthetics of hell  Akutagawa Ryūnosuke  Concepts of jigoku in Japanese culture  Screening: Hell Screen (Part 1)  Homework:</p>

Read: "Hell Screen" (assigned pages)  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第5回

Art, cruelty, and spectatorship  
Screening: Hell Screen (Part 2)  
Class discussion and textual analysis  
Homework:  
Read: "The Smile of a Mountain Witch"  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第6回

Folklore, adaptation, and the literary past  
Lafcadio Hearn and cultural translation  
The Tale of the Heike and literary adaptation  
Reading: "Hoichi the Earless"  
Homework:  
Watch: "Hoichi the Earless" (film)

第7回

Student presentations: The Meiji Era  
Homework:  
Read: The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga (assigned pages)  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第8回

Taishō society and literary change  
Meiji and Taishō Japan: historical overview  
Reading and discussion: The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga (Part 1)  
Homework:  
Continue reading assigned pages  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第9回

Tanizaki Jun'ichirō and modern sensibility  
Tanizaki and Taishō aesthetics  
Reading and discussion: The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga (Part 2)  
Homework:  
Continue reading assigned pages  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第10回

Urban space and cultural identity  
The Yokohama Bluff and cultural contact  
Reading and discussion: The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga (Part 3)  
Homework:  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第11回

Student presentations: The Taishō Era  
Introduction to Yukio Mishima  
Reading: "Patriotism"  
Homework:  
Prepare responses to assigned reading questions

第12回

Political crisis and nationalism  
Screening and discussion: The February 26 Incident (Part 1)  
Homework:  
Prepare responses to film discussion questions

第13回

Literature, violence, and ideology  
Screening and discussion: The February 26 Incident (Part 2)  
Homework:  
Prepare responses to film discussion questions

第14回-

Assessment and review  
In-class literary analysis writing assignment  
Quiz: Meiji and Taishō Japan (Introductory Essay)

Evaluation Criteria

Class participation and discussion/ literary circle participation  
PowerPoint presentation (1)

30%

25%

	Homework/reading questions/quizzes Short reaction papers/literary analysis/literary circle reflections Use of generative AI tools is strictly prohibited in this course.	30% 15%
Textbooks	<p>The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories Edited by Jay Rubin Penguin Classics 978-0-241-31190-5</p> <p>Any student use of AI-generated content constitutes academic misconduct.</p>	

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Mon.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 213 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Intercultural Competence for College Students in Japan
Instructor	SAKURAI Shogo(サクライ ショウゴ)

Course Description	<p>This course is entitled " intercultural competence for college students in Japan" in which both domestic and exchange students study the subject in English. By completing this course, students will learn the following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. what intercultural competence is and why we need it</li> <li>2. what culture is</li> <li>3. how we react to cultural difference</li> <li>4. how we define intercultural competence</li> <li>5. how we develop intercultural competence while at college</li> <li>6. what critical incidents are and how we can get the most out of them</li> <li>7. what the links between intercultural competence and career development</li> </ol>
Syllabus	<p>This course will be conducted in-person on the Nissin campus throughout the semester. Students will learn several chosen intercultural competences by using the following steps: read the assigned reading, write reflective journal, and share it with the class. In the middle of the semester and at the end of the semester, there will be group projects based on their chosen topic (the teme will be given by the instructor). The class is conducted entirely in English; thus, domestic students should possess at least 500 on TOEFL ITP or equivalent English proficiency and/or at least a semester of study-abroad in an English speaking country.</p> <p>Detailed syllabi will be given in the first class meeting.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Weekly assignments (30%)  Mid-term project (20%)  Final project (20%)  Quiz (10%)  Active participation/group discussion (20%)  Attendance (10%)</p>
Textbooks	<p>The handouts (reading materials) will be given in the class.</p>

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Thu.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 214 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japanese Culture Through Film
Instructor	Raymond Gordon Rees(レイモンド・ゴードン・リース)

Course Description	<p>Japanese Culture Through Film surveys major Japanese films and influential directors as a way to explore key aspects of Japanese culture and society. Through the close viewing and discussion of selected films, students will gain insight into Japanese values, social norms, and historical experiences, and will be encouraged to compare these perspectives with their own cultural backgrounds. In this course, film is treated as a cultural text that reflects social attitudes, historical memory, and everyday life in Japan.</p> <p>While the primary focus of the course is cultural analysis, class discussions will also address the social issues and historical contexts depicted in the films. Students will develop a broad understanding of Japanese culture through guided film viewing, assigned readings, and in-class discussion.</p> <p>Each class will include film excerpts and discussion with the instructor and classmates. Weekly homework assignments and quizzes will be used to check students' understanding of film content and course readings. Course materials and assignments will be managed through Google Classroom.</p>
Syllabus	<p>In principle, this course will be conducted face-to-face. However, due to the academic calendar for exchange students, one class session may be held online. Details regarding this session will be explained during the first class meeting.</p> <p>The following broad themes will be discussed in the course:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Samurai ideals and realities</li> <li>2. Japanese folklore and horror</li> <li>3. Religion in Japan</li> <li>4. Japanese collective memories of World War II</li> <li>5. Employment and corporate life in Japan</li> <li>6. The Japanese education system</li> <li>7. Japanese food culture</li> <li>8. Japanese comedy</li> </ol> <p>The course schedule is organized around key films and themes that allow students to analyze Japanese culture, history, and social values through close viewing and discussion.</p> <p>Week 1 – Akira Kurosawa: Samurai and social order; course overview; Warring States Period; class system; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Film questions.</p> <p>Week 2 – Akira Kurosawa: Agrarian culture and power; director's influence; character analysis; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Film questions; short monologue &amp; Padlet recording.</p> <p>Week 3 – Akira Kurosawa: Samurai ideals vs. reality; ochimusha; armor; myth and history; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Bushidō reading; Samurai/Bushido code essay.</p> <p>Week 4 – Masaki Kobayashi: Folklore and history; Lafcadio Hearn; The Tale of the Heike; onryō vengeful spirits; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Hearn questions; Battle of Dan-no-ura reading.</p> <p>Week 5 – Masaki Kobayashi: Memory, trauma, and the supernatural; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Kwaidan article; comprehension questions.</p> <p>Week 6 – Isao Takahata: War and civilians; American firebombing of Japan; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Firebombing reading; questions.</p> <p>Week 7 – Isao Takahata: Collective memory of WWII; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: WWII collective memory reading; short paper (1).</p> <p>Week 8 – Yōjirō Takita: Death and ritual in contemporary Japan; symbols; guided viewing and discussion of film. HW: Film questions.</p> <p>Week 9 – Yōjirō Takita: Life, death, and cultural values; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p>

<p>HW: Reading on life and death in Japan.</p> <p>Week 10 – Takita / Kiyoshi Kurosawa: Religion, economy, and social change; quiz on reading HW; Lost Decade; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p> <p>HW: Lifetime employment reading; questions.</p> <p>Week 11 – Kiyoshi Kurosawa: Family, work, and social anxiety; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p> <p>HW: Film analysis; Tokyo Sonata reading.</p> <p>Week 12 – Jūzō Itami: Food culture and modernity; quiz on film ending; guided viewing and discussion of film.</p> <p>HW: Tampopo readings; questions.</p> <p>Week 13 – Jūzō Itami / Kōki Mitani: Comedy and society; guided viewing and discussion of film; in-class reaction paper (2).</p> <p>HW: Kōki Mitani reading.</p> <p>Week 14 – Kōki Mitani: Humor and contemporary Japan; guided viewing and discussion of film; final in-class writing activity (3).</p>
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<p>Evaluation Criteria</p>	<p>Evaluation criteria:</p> <table> <tr> <td>1. Attendance/Participation in discussions:</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>2. Homework, questions on readings and films and quizzes</td><td>40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>3. Short reaction papers-(3)</td><td>20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>4. Samurai/Bushido code essay</td><td>20%</td></tr> </table> <p>Use of generative AI tools is strictly prohibited in this course.</p>	1. Attendance/Participation in discussions:	20%	2. Homework, questions on readings and films and quizzes	40%	3. Short reaction papers-(3)	20%	4. Samurai/Bushido code essay	20%
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3. Short reaction papers-(3)	20%								
4. Samurai/Bushido code essay	20%								
<p>Textbooks</p>	<p>This textbook is not required, but you may find it useful when you write your Samurai/Bushido code essay.</p> <p>Bushido: The Soul of Japan Illustrated Inazo Nitobe Create Space Independent Publishing 978-150-5489194 981 yen</p> <p>Any student use of AI-generated content constitutes academic misconduct.</p>								

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Mon.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 216 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japanese Cultural Patterns: A Cross-Cultural Perspective
Instructor	Kevin Ottoson(ケビン・オットソン)

Course Description	<p>This course examines salient Japanese cultural patterns that are often difficult to recognize and articulate explicitly. Through the study of conventional principles and everyday practices in contemporary Japan, particularly those not typically presented in media or standard textbooks, students will explore how cultural patterns shape perception, behavior, and social interaction.</p> <p>By engaging with Japanese culture from a cross cultural perspective, students will develop a deeper understanding of how cultural values influence actions, communication styles, and social expectations. The course also emphasizes critical reflection, encouraging students to examine cultural generalizations and consider the diversity and complexity within Japanese society. Through readings, structured discussion, and a small scale ethnographic research project, students will strengthen their intercultural awareness and analytical skills.</p>
	<p><b>Course Objectives</b>            Through this course, students will develop intercultural competence and research skills. By the end of the course, students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>① Demonstrate knowledge of key Japanese cultural patterns and orientations.</li> <li>② Explain how cultural values influence observable behavior in contemporary Japan.</li> <li>③ Critically examine cultural generalizations and recognize cultural complexity.</li> <li>④ Reflect on their own cultural positioning and identity.</li> <li>⑤ Conduct and present a small scale ethnographic interview using appropriate research practices.</li> </ul> <p><b>Class Preparation</b>            Students are expected to spend approximately 180 minutes per week preparing for class. Preparation includes assigned readings, written responses, research tasks, and preparation for discussion activities. Mini lectures, guided discussion, and collaborative activities will be used to explore weekly themes. Students will complete a final ethnographic research project that applies course concepts to interviews or observations conducted outside the classroom.</p> <p>Regarding the use of generative AI, the course instructor will provide additional instructions separately. It will be discussed in class at the appropriate time.</p>

Syllabus	<p>Weekly Schedule</p> <p>Week 1-Introduction to culture and cultural patterns. Surface and deep culture. High and low context communication.</p> <p>Week 2-Group consciousness. Individualism and collectivism.</p> <p>Week 3-Uchi and soto. Social distance and in group and out group distinctions.</p> <p>Week 4-Tatemae and honne. Public and private self.</p> <p>Week 5-Formality and ritual. Hierarchy, giri, and omotenashi.</p> <p>Week 6-Silence in communication. Ma and the values associated with silence.</p> <p>Week 7-Hedataru and najimu. Relationship stages and social distance.</p> <p>Week 8-Harmony and communication. Indirectness, alignment, and nonverbal communication.</p> <p>Week 9-Time orientation. Punctuality and long term orientation.</p> <p>Week 10-Nemawashi and decision making. Ringi seido.</p> <p>Week 11-Ethnographic research workshop. Research design and interview preparation.</p> <p>Week 12-Ethnographic research workshop. Data analysis and concept integration.</p> <p>Week 13-Student presentations.</p> <p>Week 14-Online feedback session on presentations.</p>
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Note: The content of this course outline is subject to change.

Evaluation Criteria	<p>Class participation: 20% Weekly written assignments and journals: 50% Final ethnographic research project and presentation: 30%</p> <p>Participation includes active engagement in discussions and collaborative activities. Weekly assignments include reading responses and analytical reflections related to course themes. The final ethnographic project requires students to conduct a small scale orientation, analyze their findings using course concepts, and present their results to the class.</p>
Textbooks	<p>None. Materials provided by the instructor. This course will utilize Google Classroom. Students will be given materials and assignments for each class on Google Classroom. Selected readings will be provided as PDFs or links. Some chapters may be excerpted to fit student reading levels. Supplementary media (film clips, interviews, and documentaries) may be added to enhance weekly topic.</p>

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Tue.5Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 217 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Japanese Popular Culture: Key Media and Cultural Themes
Instructor	Julian Pimienta(ジ ュリアン ピ ミエンタ)

Course Description	<b>Course Overview</b> Japan's popular culture is one of the most powerful ways to understand contemporary Japanese society. This course introduces major domains of Japanese popular culture and builds popular culture literacy through research-informed discussion and case studies. Each class develops a structured understanding of a topic by (1) locating it in time, (2) identifying major debates in research and society, and (3) applying those ideas to a concrete case (a work, creator, place, event, or trend). Students will leave the course able to discuss Japanese popular culture with clarity, context, and academic awareness.
	<b>Learning Goals</b> 1. Locate each topic historically by identifying key milestones and turning points in Japanese popular culture. 2. Explain why each topic matters culturally by connecting it to modern Japanese life, values, identity, and everyday practices. 3. Summarize major discussions and debates (academic and public) surrounding each topic, including contested meanings and social concerns. 4. Act as a cultural ambassador and bridge by introducing Japanese popular culture to others clearly, thoughtfully, and responsibly, using accurate context and concrete examples.
	<b>Message from the Instructor</b> Welcome to Japan Studies! If you love Japanese popular culture or want to understand it beyond the surface, this class is for you. You don't need to be an expert. Bring your curiosity, your examples, and your questions. My goal is that you leave as a confident cultural bridge who can explain Japanese pop culture thoughtfully and clearly to others. See you in class!

Syllabus	<p>Week 1: Postwar Foundations. How Japanese Popular Culture Took Shape (1945 to Today). An overview of the postwar origins of modern Japanese popular culture.</p> <p>Week 2: Manga I. How Manga Works: Forms, Genres, and Reading Culture. Explore manga's basic structure, major genres, and how serialization shapes the reading experience.</p> <p>Week 3: Manga II. Why Manga Matters: Debates and Case Study. Examine major debates around manga and apply them to a focused case study.</p> <p>Week 4: Anime I. A Brief History of Anime: TV, Film, and Studios. Trace anime's development across key eras, formats, and major studios.</p> <p>Week 5: Anime II. Anime's Big Conversations: Debates and Case Study. Explore major debates around anime, then analyze one landmark work as a case study.</p> <p>Week 6: Video Games I. Arcades to Consoles: Play Culture in Japan. Map the history of Japanese games and play spaces, from arcades to home consoles.</p> <p>Week 7: Video Games II. Genres, Design, and Landmark Titles: Case Workshop. Explore major game genres and Japanese design philosophies through a landmark title or franchise.</p> <p>Week 8: Midterm Presentations. Pop Culture Literacy Briefs. Students give short presentations on one topic or case from Weeks 1 to 7.</p> <p>Week 9: Music I. Postwar Pop to J Pop. How Music Moves in Japan. Explore major shifts in Japanese popular music and how it circulates through media, performance, and everyday spaces such as karaoke.</p> <p>Week 10: Music II. Idols and Performance Culture. Debates and Case Study. Study idols as a pop culture form through a case study.</p> <p>Week 11: Character Culture I. Kawaii, Mascots, and Characters Everywhere. Learn why characters matter in Japan, from mascots and branding to everyday identity.</p> <p>Week 12: Character Culture II. Franchises and Character Worlds. Debates and Case Workshop. Explore how character worlds expand across media and goods.</p> <p>Week 13: Toys and Collectibles. Figures, Gacha, and the Culture of Collecting.</p>
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	<p>Examine toys and collectibles as pop culture practice, including collecting, display, nostalgia, and adult play.</p> <p>Week 14: Final Presentations. Cultural Ambassador Showcase. Students present a polished final topic or case designed to teach a newcomer.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	Midterm Presentation (40%) Final Presentation (40%) Class Engagement and Participation (20%)
Textbooks	All materials will be provided by the instructor.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Tue.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 222 (Language)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Community Interpreting and Translation in Japan: Focus on the Legal Setting
Instructor	Jakub E. Marszalenko(ヤコブ・マルシャレンコ)
Course Description	The goal of the course is to familiarize students with basic concepts, issues, and challenges in the realm of community interpreting and translation in Japan. Before turning its attention to Japanese-English interpreting and translation in the legal setting, the course will first provide an introduction to Interpreting and Translation Studies at large, and an overview of relevant literature on public interest interpreting and translation, forensic linguistics, as well as related paradigms in English studies (especially those focusing on the global nature and role of the English language).
Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>01. Introduction to the Course: goals, schedule, evaluation, and rules</li> <li>02. Basic concepts and paradigms in Interpreting and Translation Studies: Equivalence (Part I)</li> <li>03. Equivalence (Part II): Nida's formal and dynamic equivalence</li> <li>04. Equivalence in the legal interpreting context</li> <li>05. Community Interpreting and Forensic Linguistics</li> <li>06. Legal System in Japan (I): Criminal Investigations</li> <li>07. Legal System in Japan (II): Criminal Trials</li> <li>08. Role(s) of Court Interpreters</li> <li>09. English as the Language of Interpreting in Japan's Legal Proceedings</li> <li>10. "Plain English" and Linguistic Proficiency in Court Proceedings</li> <li>11. Student Presentations (Group 1)</li> <li>12. Student Presentations (Group 2)</li> <li>13. Student Presentations (Group 3)</li> <li>14. Final Exam (online)</li> </ul>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Final Exam: 45%</p> <p>Final Presentation or Term Paper: 40%</p> <p>Class Participation: 15%</p>
Textbooks	None. All class materials will be provided by the instructor.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Thu.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 223 (Language)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Japanese Linguistics
Instructor	SAKURAI Shogo(サクライ ショウゴ)

Course Description	<p>This course introduces the basics of Japanese linguistics. By taking this course, students will become familiar with the following aspects of Japanese linguistic properties and be able to understand the unique characteristics of each by comparing with the ones of their native language. The class will be conducted entirely in English; thus, all students should possess either 500 on TOEFL ITP or equivalent English proficiency, and/or at least one semester of study abroad in an English-speaking country. Exchange students must be enrolled in at least JLPT Level 2 or above Japanese language classes.</p> <p>1. Phonetics 2. Phonology 3. Morphology 4. Syntax</p>
Syllabus	<p>This course will be conducted in-person on the Nissin campus throughout the semester. Students are expected to read assigned material before coming to the class, take weekly quizzes, participate in class/group discussion, and take the final exam at the end of the semester.</p> <p>The detailed syllabus will be handed out in the first class meeting.</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Weekly quizzes (20%) Active participation (10%) Homework (10%) Final Exam (50%) Attendance (10%)</p>
Textbooks	Handouts (reading materials) will be given in the class.

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Tue.3Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 901 (Special Course)
Course Subtitle	Project based learning in collaboration with local governments and communities
Instructor	TOKUMOTO Hiroko(トクモト ヒロコ)

Course Description	<p>『Course Description』</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is no doubt that no country can survive alone without understanding and cooperating with other nations. It is also true with local governments. Now, with so many visitors and residents with overseas roots in Japan, not just the central government, but also local governments are facing many new problems which require urgent attention and implementation of measures to survive in this globalized society. It is surely meaningful to have a clear overview of those problems and to ponder over the possible solutions.</li> <li>● This class adopts the project-based learning (PBL) method and includes activities which are akin to an internship. We will work closely with local governments in this region and students are expected to work actively on the projects assigned by the local governments. Domestic and exchange students work together to reach possible solutions. At the end of the semester, students present their solutions to the local governments.</li> </ul> <p>***** IMPORTANT!!! *****</p> <p>This class has an enrollment limit. If the number of students registering exceeds the limit, a lottery will be held. After the lottery, there will be an “add-and-drop” period. Even if you are not selected in the lottery, some students may drop and create openings. These spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>If you are not selected in the lottery but would like to wait for an opening, you must attend the class from the beginning, even while you are waiting. If you start attending partway through, you will NOT be allowed to register, as you will not be able to catch up with the course content. Attendance will be allowed without registration until the end of the “add-and-drop” period.</p>
	<p>『Approaches』</p> <p>The course will use the active learning approach, whereby students are expected to engage actively of their own initiative in activities rather than being taught in a passive manner. It will take as interactive a form as possible. The class activities include on-site observation visits, discussions with people from the governments, on-site surveys and such. Details will be explained during the orientation in Week 1. ALL students who are interested MUST ATTEND the orientation including the waiting students regardless of their registration status then.</p> <p>***** IMPORTANT!!! *****</p> <p>ALL students MUST attend (1) presentations by two cities (Week 2), (2) BOTH in-class presentations (Weeks 8 &amp; 9) and (3) BOTH final presentations (Weeks 11 &amp; 12). If you know that you are unable to attend any one of these five events, you should not register for this class. If you miss one of these events, you will automatically fail regardless of the reason. Please note that the final presentation for Toyota city is scheduled on July 5th (Sun), OUTSIDE of the regular timetable.</p>
Syllabus	<p>『Schedule』</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The partner cities and schedules are subject to change. Final schedule will be announced during the first week orientation.</li> </ul> <p>Week 1 Orientation (in Room 531)      Week 2 Presentations by Toyota and Nagakute cities on the tasks      Week 3 Groupings and brainstorming      Week 4 Research: grasping the existing conditions      Week 5 Research: investigating the possible causes of the problems      Week 6 Research: compiling the information gathered      Week 7 Research: contemplating the possible solutions      Week 8 In-class presentation (Nagakute teams)      Week 9 In-class presentation (Toyota teams)      Week 10 Add &amp; correct the presentations      Week 11 Final presentation to Nagakute city      Week 12 Final presentation to Toyota city      Week 13 Reflection      Week 14 Review</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Presentation (including corrections &amp; improvements after in-class presentation) : 60%</p> <p>Portfolio &amp; Reflection : 40%</p>
Textbooks	None

Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 902 (Special Course)
Course Subtitle	Japan through Japanese Traditional Performing Arts
Instructor	TOKUMOTO Hiroko(トクモト ヒロコ)

Course Description	『Course Description』 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is no doubt that the root of modern Japanese culture is Japanese traditional culture. Deepening knowledge in traditional Japan is surely essential for understanding Japan and Japanese culture now. To recognize the uniqueness of Japan in the world, we should start with comparing and evaluating Japan seen from outside and Japan seen from inside.</li> <li>● The first half of the semester will be lectures and discussions on the history and uniqueness of Japanese traditional arts and cultures. The second half of the semester will be hands-on practices of Japanese traditional dances (by the school of Ohtsuki Noh play), Japanese traditional drum (by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza), and Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute (by the master Kineya Santaro).</li> </ul> <p>***** IMPORTANT!!! *****</p> <p>This class has an enrollment limit. If the number of students registering exceeds the limit, a lottery will be held. After the lottery, there will be an “add-and-drop” period. Even if you are not selected in the lottery, some students may drop and create openings. These spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.</p> <p>If you are not selected in the lottery but would like to wait for an opening, you must attend the class from the beginning, even while you are waiting. If you start attending partway through, you will NOT be allowed to register, as you will not be able to catch up with the course content. Attendance will be allowed without registration until the end of the “add-and-drop” period.</p> <p>『Approaches』</p> <p>The course will use the active learning approach, whereby students are expected to engage actively in activities rather than being taught in a passive manner. It will take as interactive a form as possible through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Lectures on Japanese traditional performing arts in various aspects.</li> <li>(2) Hands-on practices by the leading performers of Japanese traditional dances and music.</li> <li>(3) Submission of reflection quiz and papers.</li> </ol> <p>* From Week 1 to Week 6, the class will meet in Room 532. From Week 7 on, the class will meet in Sub-arena.</p>

Syllabus	『Schedule』 ● Hands-on practices schedule is subject to change.
	Week 1 Orientation (in Room 532)
	Week 2 Lecture: Relationship between religion and Japanese traditional performing arts: Buddhism & Shintoism
	Week 3 Lecture: Japanese traditional way of thinking: Philosophy underlying Japanese traditional arts
	Week 4 Lecture: Japanese traditional stage performances (dances & musics): Noh, Kyogen, Kabuki, Bunraku
	Week 5 Lecture: Japanese traditional face expressions and costumes & Japanese traditional music 1 Wadaiko (Drum)
	Week 6 Lecture: Japanese traditional music 2 Shamisen (3 stringed lute) & Japanese traditional dance, Shimai Noh dance
	Week 7 Performance: Japanese traditional dance 1: introduction by the master of Ohtsuki Noh school
	Week 8 Performance: Japanese traditional dance 2: practice by the master of Ohtsuki Noh school
	Week 9 Performance: Japanese traditional drum: introduction by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza
	Week 10 Performance: Japanese traditional drum: practice by Oh'haru Taiko Owari Ichiza
	Week 11 Performance: Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute: introduction by the master Kineya Santaro
	Week 12 Performance: Shamisen: three-stringed Japanese lute: practice by the master Kineya Santaro
	Week 13 Performance: Final presentation (drum and Shamisen together)
	Week 14 【on demand】 Reflection paper

Evaluation Criteria	Reflection quiz : 35% Reflection paper : 13% Performance practice : 42% (6% x 7times) Class performance (including attendance) : 10% (2% x 5times)
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Textbooks	None
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Year/Semester	2026年度 1期
Day/Period	Wed.2Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 904 (Special Course)
Course Subtitle	Oriental Traditional Writing Culture – Calligraphy
Instructor	TOKUMOTO Hiroko(トクモト ヒロコ)

Course Description	<p>This course is for students who want to experience calligraphy and learn how the Japanese writing system – Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji were developed.</p> <p>No prior knowledge of Japanese is required. We will start writing very simple strokes to introduce the basis of calligraphy. Students are required to purchase their own brushes, ink, and calligraphy papers from the instructor. Please bring 1500 yen in cash for the orientation.</p> <p>The class capacity is 5 students.</p> <p>Students who are selected in the lottery MUST attend the orientation session in the first week. Even if you are registered, your registration will be canceled if you are absent from the first session.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The schedule is subject to change.</p> <p>Week 1 Orientation, An introduction of history of Japanese letters (in Room CP1)</p> <p>Week 2 Basic strokes - How to write with brush</p> <p>Week 3 Katakana Basic - Writing your name</p> <p>Week 4 Katakana Basic - Relationship with Hiragana</p> <p>Week 5 Katakana – Writing words</p> <p>Week 6 Test 1 (Katakana)</p> <p>Week 7 Kanji Basic - Relationship with Hiragana and Katakana</p> <p>Week 8 Kanji - Writing words</p> <p>Week 9 Test 2 (Kanji)</p> <p>Week 10 Hiragana Basic - Summary of development of Japanese letter</p> <p>Week 11 Hiragana - Writing words</p> <p>Week 12 Test 3 (Hiragana)</p> <p>Week 13 Kana &amp; Kanji mixed - Typical Japanese writing forms</p> <p>Week 14 Kana &amp; Kanji mixed - How to write "Kakizome"</p>
Evaluation Criteria	<p>Class performance : 40%</p> <p>Tests : 60%</p> <p>Your class performance will be evaluated every week. If you miss any class, the class performance point for the day will be zero regardless of the reason. Try not to miss any classes!</p>
Textbooks	Handouts and samples will be provided by the instructor.