



School of Global Studies and Collaboration Aoyama Gakuin University

Course Descriptions for Japan Studies Courses

2019 Spring ~ Fall

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Japan Studies Courses

GSC's Japan Studies Program offers unique opportunities for international students to be immersed in the multi-facets of Japan. The students acquire in-depth knowledge on culture, economy, business, policy, history and geography from accomplished scholars, professionals experienced in policy, renowned artists and entrepreneurs. The program is also designed for Japanese students to acquire the knowledge and skills to introduce their country to overseas in their future careers. Some of the coursework involves excursions or hands-on experiences. This program consists of 16 courses (32 credits) taught in English.

(Courses are subject to change.)

Title	Description	Semester
Introduction to Japanese Culture	This course is a general introduction to Japanese culture and society. First, we will examine intellectual approaches to Japanese cultural history. Second, we will cover Japanese cultural elements, including art, skill, cuisine, literature, communication, daily life, leisure, etc. Finally, we will look at some of the major spiritual elements that have shaped modern Japanese culture and society, including Shinto, Buddhism, syncretism, and the Western influences.	Spring
Traditional Art and Culture in Modern Japan	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.	Spring
War Memory in Modern Japan	This class will survey the historical relationship between social memory and cultural identity in twentieth-century Japan. Weekly readings (to be distributed in the previous class by the instructor) will consist of selections from multiple works on central themes. Weekly lectures and classroom discussions will serve to review these readings, highlighting and elaborating on their main points.	Spring
Introduction to Japanese Politics and Society	The main part of this class will consist in a joint reading of the first half of Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan (Third International Edition, 2013). Students are required to read one chapter (20-30 pages) per week (with the exception of weeks in which tests are held). Weekly classes will combine lectures and discussion. The lectures will review the text, highlighting and enlarging on its main points. They will proceed on the understanding that students have completed the assigned readings already.	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Introduction to Japanese Politics and Society	This class will introduce students to nineteenth-century Japanese History. The main part of this class will consist in a joint reading of the first half of Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan (Third International Edition, 2013). Weekly classes will be primarily lectured based, but some time will be devoted to discussions. The lectures will review the text, highlighting and enlarging on its main points.	Spring
Economic and Industrial Development Policy in Postwar Japan	In this course features of Japan's post-WWII economic development will be examined. Particular attention will be paid at the concept of industrial policy and institutional aspects of Japan's economy.	Spring
Japanese Economic Cooperation with Developing Countries	How should we eradicate poverty and inequality? How should we achieve peace and justice? How should we guarantee prosperity, health, education, and decent work for all? Japan has been tackling these challenges for over sixty years, by providing aid (Official Development Assistance: ODA) to developing countries with distinctive aid philosophy and unique instruments. This course firstly introduces a basic knowledge about development issues and Japan's ODA policy. Then students are encouraged to think critically about the conventional wisdom on global agendas. The course will be interactive, with the combination of lecture, group discussion, and role-playing game. No prior knowledge is required.	Spring
Travel and Tourism in Contemporary Japan	In Japan's aging society, tourism is expected to play a major role in maintaining its vitality. The students of this class will learn to understand the present conditions of the country's international and domestic tourism, and how they are contributing to the society and the economy. In the class, some of the popular tourist destinations will be introduced, as well as the major business players in the tourism industry, including hotels, ryokan, transport, and tour operators.	Spring
Surveying and Cartography in Japan	This course is designed as an introduction to the geography of Japan. It will focus on the best way to collect geographical literatures, how to carry out field researches, the process for making a map using gis, objectives of geography and the tools featuring Japan. It also enhances the development of students' skill in making oral presentation and self-regulated learning.	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Cool Japan: Contextualizing Contemporary Popular Culture	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.	Fall
Modern Japanese History: From Samurai Age to Modernity	This course will introduce an urban history of Modern Tokyo, focusing on social life, material culture, buildings and environments. It consists in lectures and discussions, built around weekly reading assignments. Weekly classes will be primarily lectured based, but some time will be devoted to discussions. The lectures will review the assignments, highlighting and enlarging on its main points.	Fall
Issues in Modern Japanese Education	The lecture aims to reveal the special characteristics of Japanese education and society by understanding the social role and function of education and the social factors behind educational issues. Specifically, the lecture will consider social and educational change in Japan through the radical changes in education that have occurred up to the present time from the early-modern period when learning became common throughout society as a whole, to the period of postwar recovery, to the period of rapid economic growth, to the period of globalization. With regard to present-day education, particular attention will be paid to the various issues in education that have accompanied social changes.	Fall
Lifestyle and Society in Japan	This class will introduce students to twentieth-century Japanese History. The main part of this class will consist in a joint reading of the second half of Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan (Third International Edition, 2013). Weekly classes will be primarily lectured based, but some time will be devoted to discussions. The lectures will review the text, highlighting and enlarging on its main points.	Fall
Financial Systems and Economic Development in Postwar Japan	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.	Fall

Title	Description	Semester
New Frontiers in Geospatial Gaming	<p>Google / Ingress I - Beyond Google Earth.</p> <p>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.</p>	2nd half of fall
Advanced Resilient Communities against Disaster	<p>SAFECAST</p> <p>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.</p>	2nd half of fall