

Course Held in English

Spring Semester

1. *Traditional Japanese Culture* 2 credits

This course offers an immersive exploration of Japan's rich cultural heritage through hands-on workshops and lectures. Local masters and scholars will provide insights into traditions, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Japan's cultural identity, while students experience traditional arts and customs firsthand. Sample lesson topics include tea ceremony, calligraphy, flower arrangement, religion, and history.

(Actual course content is subject to change. An up-to-date schedule will be provided in the first class of the semester.)

This course is designed for international students and will be taught in English. In cases where the guest speaker is unable to conduct the lesson or workshop in English, interpretation will be provided.

2. *Japan Studies I* 2 credits

Discover the rich and captivating history of Japanese art, from its earliest forms to contemporary masterpieces. In this course, we'll explore the evolution of painting, sculpture, ceramics, architecture, and prints, delving into the defining styles, key movements, and artistic innovations of each era. Through an in-depth examination of artworks in their historical and cultural contexts, we'll uncover how they reflect and shape broader societal transformations.

3. *Japan Studies II History of Japanese Film* 2 credits

This course aims to help develop students' appreciation for and knowledge of a wide variety of Japanese films, directors, and film genres. We will approach each film by contextualizing it within the history of the medium and by drawing connections to Japanese culture, society, and national identity. We will also explore how Japanese filmmakers were inspired by films from around the world, and how Japanese filmmakers, in turn, influenced filmmakers in other countries. Students will watch films in class and at home, participate in discussions, write short reflections on the films we have watched, complete a project on a Japanese filmmaker, genre, or period of their choice, and complete a summative writing task covering the concepts we have studied throughout the semester.

4. *Japan Studies III Japanese Society through Pop Culture* 2 credits

In this course, we will consider how film, TV, and animation represent and portray social issues, past and present, in the Japanese context to build a better understanding of Japanese culture and contemporary society.

Though we often look to popular media from TV programs to anime to viral videos to illustrate a particular social problem or historical situation, they are not always a true reflection of a period in time or of the 'real world' reality. However, by examining the film texts through class discussion, lecture, critical film analysis techniques, and unit projects, we will become familiar with key social and historical issues influencing modern Japanese culture and society to arrive at something close to 'truth.'

5. *Japan Studies IV Japanese Society and Culture in Japanese* 2 credits

この授業は、日本語と日本文化を学ぶ留学生を対象としており、下記のような日本の4つの異なる伝統的なテーマに触れ、それぞれ異なる講師によって行われます。

(1) 昔話 (2) 和菓子 (3) 和紙と綿織物 (4) 邦画

この授業では、講義、ディスカッション、実践的なアクティビティを通じて日本語スキルを向上させながら、日本文化への理解を深めることができます。

このコースは日本語で教えられます。このコースは、下記の日本語レベルの学生のみが受講できます。

・日本語 (IA・IIA) ・日本語 (IIIA・IVA)

6. *Japan Studies VII Japanese Security* 2 credits

In this course, students will examine the multifaceted landscape of human and traditional security concerns in Japan. Through a combination of lectures, seminars, case studies, and discussions, students will gain an in-depth understanding of the diverse range of security challenges facing Japan, both domestically and internationally. The course will cover topics such as natural disasters, environmental degradation, public health crises, demographic shifts, economic vulnerabilities, and traditional security threats. Special attention will be given to the intersectionality of these issues and their impact on Japan's society, economy, and national security. By critically analyzing case studies and engaging in interactive discussions, students will

develop the analytical skills and knowledge necessary to assess and address contemporary security challenges in Japan. Furthermore, students will explore policy responses, resilience-building strategies, and international cooperation efforts aimed at enhancing Japan's human and traditional security. Overall, this course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the complex security dynamics shaping Japan's present and future.

7. *World Societies I America in Focus* 2 credits

World Societies I offers an in-depth exploration of American perspectives on domestic security, examining key challenges, policies, and debates shaping the nation's security landscape. From homeland security and counterterrorism to gun violence and public safety, this course delves into critical issues facing the United States and explores the intersection of security, civil liberties, and social justice. Through a multidisciplinary approach, students will analyze the complex dynamics of border security, immigration enforcement, cybersecurity, and racial relations, gaining insights into the evolving nature of domestic security threats and responses. Through case studies, discussions, and policy analysis, students will develop a nuanced understanding of America's domestic security concerns and their implications for society, governance, and global security.

8. *English Lecture B* 2 credits

On this course we will explore the history of the English language. The story of English begins with England and what is now the United Kingdom. We will start by looking at languages that preceded English in the British Isles. We will chart how various groups that invaded Britain brought parts of the English language with them, and how it evolved and grew over the centuries. Next, we will look at the varieties of English that developed within the UK and overseas in places like the USA and Australia. Finally, we will take a critical look at the spread of English as a global language. We will discuss the reasons why the current situation came to be, the benefits this might have for international communication, and also the way it threatens other languages around the world.

9. *English Lecture C* 2 credits

In this course, we learn about how to combat racism by closely reading Ibram X. Kendi's *How to Be an Antiracist*. Racism has been and still is present and harmful in many parts of the world. While *How to Be an Antiracist* focuses on defining racism and unpacking how it has been and still is operating to oppress African Americans in the United States, it offers readers from any national, ethnic, and racial background crucial insights into how they can identify racism in their respective society and within themselves. Kendi argues that simply "learning about" racism and "not being racist" are not enough: As the title of the book suggests, the author urges us to be Antiracists: those who actively oppose racism by supporting individuals, groups, and policies that combat it. In other words, when it comes to racism, bystanders are, knowingly or unknowingly, reinforcing racist institutions, beliefs, and policies. Therefore, reading *How to Be an Antiracist* can be an uncomfortable challenge to readers who think that they are "not racist." Nevertheless, it is the challenge that we all must take on in order to achieve a truly progressive society free from racism. In every class meeting, we gain a deeper understanding of each topic the book presents by engaging in discussions and in-class activities, delivering presentations, and using aiding materials.

10. *English Lecture E* 2 credits

The subtitle and theme of this course is "Loving Nature." The course introduces outlooks, ideas and actual practices for living in a more environmentally sustainable manner. Course materials introduce traditional and contemporary approaches to environmentally friendly lifestyles, incorporating a cross-cultural perspective. Students become more familiar with attitudes and practices toward plants, animals, and natural environments in Japan, the United States, as well as other countries and cultures. As part of the coursework, students also innovate novel lifestyle approaches of their own. The course is centered on the question of how to live ethical, happy, and fulfilling lives in the accelerating environmental crisis.

11. *English II* 2 credits

This English communication course aims to improve students' fluency across language skills by engaging in weekly speed writing and speaking fluency activities. Additionally, the incorporated extensive reading and vocabulary learning programs will systematically develop students' overall English knowledge base while recycling the most frequent and useful vocabulary and grammar. Students should expect to work together with the teacher to make a friendly and communicative class in a welcoming environment. By the end of the course, students will feel more confident using English to share their opinions and ideas while speaking and writing.

12. English III 2 credits

このクラスでは、graded reader 版で19世紀イギリスの小説を読むことを通して英語のreading力の向上を図ります。

これまでの大学受験やテスト対策の勉強では「必要な情報を得るため」「質問に答えるため」に英語を読むことが多かったと思います。しかし本来「読む」という行為は、書かれている言葉に、自分の知っていることや読んで推論したことを結びつけ、テキストの世界を頭の中に構築することです。また、読む対象が物語である場合、読者は自分の思いと共に物語の世界に入っていく、読むことで心が動かされる経験もします。それを英語という外国語で行うためには、文法知識を確認しながら一文一文を丁寧に読み解いていく作業や、知っている単語でもじっくりこななければ意味を調べ直す一手間が必要になるでしょう。その一方で、登場人物について自分なりのイメージを描き、物語がどう展開するのかを予測し、クラスの人と感想を共有する楽しさも味わえます。また、この小説を映画化した作品の一部を時々見ます。原作からどのような改変が行われているか、登場人物はどんな俳優でどう描かれているか、そしてそれらはなぜだと考えられるか等、映画と物語を比較する批判的な読みも経験してもらいたいと思っています。

13. English IV 2 credits

This course is designed to strengthen students' overall English proficiency through careful reading, listening, and guided discussion. Using the textbook Taking Issue, students will build confidence in understanding English texts through repeated practice in accurate reading and listening. They will learn to identify key points, understand different viewpoints, and gradually express their own ideas in English.

Students will engage with a variety of genres and topics, many connected to university life. Pair-based information exchange activities will promote active learning and deeper understanding. As the course progresses, students will move from comprehension to personal response, developing greater awareness of themselves as English users. Through guided writing and discussion, they will build the skills needed to express opinions clearly and support their ideas with logical and persuasive reasoning..

Fall Semester

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This course offers an immersive exploration of Japan's rich cultural heritage through hands-on workshops and lectures. Local masters and scholars will provide insights into traditions, fostering a deeper appreciation and understanding of Japan's cultural identity, while students experience traditional arts and customs firsthand. Sample lesson topics include tea ceremony, calligraphy, flower arrangement, religion, and history.

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This course is designed for international students and will be taught in English. In cases where the guest speaker is unable to conduct the lesson or workshop in English, interpretation will be provided.

2. Japan Studies V Localization of Japanese Media 2 credits

In this course, we will consider how language, fashion, and advertisements represent and portray social issues, past and present, in the Japanese context to build a better understanding of Japanese culture and contemporary society. By examining the course topics through class discussion, lecture, and unit projects, we will become familiar with key social and historical issues influencing modern Japanese culture and society.

3. Japan Studies VI 2 credits

Japanese Studies IV delves into the intricacies of a modern Japan and the societal challenges it faces in an increasingly global world. Students will through a series of presentations, debates, and discussions, explore topics such as military bases, immigration, tourism, regional disparities, and prefectural challenges. Emphasizing effective communication skills, students engage in reflective essays and prepare final presentations addressing these issues from the perspective of mock political parties. By examining Japan's domestic landscape and fostering critical thinking, this course aims to cultivate students' understanding of the complexities inherent in navigating Japan's evolving societal fabric.

4. *World Societies II* 2 credits

World Societies II examines the multifaceted role of the United States on the international stage, exploring its political, economic, and cultural influence, as well as its global engagements and foreign policies. From diplomatic relations and international trade to military interventions and humanitarian efforts, this course provides a comprehensive overview of America's interactions with the world. Students will analyze key historical events, geopolitical dynamics, and contemporary challenges shaping U.S. foreign policy, including issues such as global governance, human rights, environmental sustainability, and geopolitical competition. Through case studies, simulations, and debates, students will critically evaluate America's impact on global affairs and its role in shaping the future of world societies.

5. *English Lecture A* 2 credits

In this course, we will explore the topic second language acquisition (SLA). We will start by looking at some of the differences between learning a first and second language. Next, we will explore the history of second language teaching and learning, and how people have learned over time, including various popular approaches of recent years. Then, we will look at the factors which make a good language learner. After that, we will look at the 'systems' and 'skills' that are needed to master a second language. As learners of English and another foreign languages, the knowledge gained on this course should help students understand what it is required to become a good language learner.

6. *English Lecture D* 2 credits

This course provides an introductory analysis of meaning involved in the study of linguistics, and will primarily focus on basic ideas of semantics and pragmatics and the mechanisms of meaning that are vital to successful human communication. Most examples will be drawn heavily from Indo-European languages, particularly English, although examples from other languages radically different from English will also be introduced to illustrate the main points we will be covering.

7. *English Lecture F* 2 credits

In this course, we read *The Autobiography of an Ex-colored Man* and *Passing*, which are authored by African American novelists, to learn about race and racism in the United States. Widely acclaimed as key novels that constitute the Harlem Renaissance—a cultural movement that greatly contributed to illustrating the beauty of African American culture and its people while sharply critiquing racism—these two novels offer nuanced insights into what race and racial identity mean, especially for racial minorities. Both novels feature Black characters whose light-skinned physical features enable them to “pass” for white—that is, pretend to be a white person. As these characters go back and forth across the racial boundary, they reveal how concepts of race are culturally and socially constructed, and not “biologically” grounded in any sense. Nevertheless, that race is a construct does not mean that they can escape from racist oppression and the sense of alienation resulting from their outsider status in both Black and white communities. As there are ongoing debates about race, racial identity and community, and racism today in the United States, the two novels offer useful hints, if not the definitive answers, to these topics.

8. *English Lecture G* 2 credits

This course deals with various problems surrounding the subject of “neo-colonialism”, a striking global phenomenon since the latter half of the twentieth century.

What is neo-colonialism? It can be defined simply as a form of economic exploitation, or as the ideology used by “developed” countries to sustain their exploitation of “developing” countries following the political decolonization of the 1960s.

In every session of this course, you will watch a documentary film or listen to a short lecture. You are required to voice your opinion after watching the film or listening to the lecture. At the end of every session you must write a comment paper.

9. *Lecture and Discussion in English* 2 credits

This course is offered in English for USP students, exchange students, and students of the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU). The course features lectures by six faculty members serving as guest speakers, followed by small-group discussions and presentations based on these lectures. The course is divided into three units. Unit 1 explores the culture of the Japanese classroom and workplace. Unit 2 includes lectures on picture scrolls and gender, religions in Japan, and nature in poetry, followed by a field trip to Enryaku-ji Temple on Mount Hiei. Unit 3 examines World War II prisoner-of-war camps and postwar social movements. Through discussions following lectures offering diverse perspectives on Japanese society and culture, participants will have opportunities to compare and share their varied experiences and beliefs.

10. Academic Lectures in English 2 credits

This class is a lecture course offered in English for USP students, exchange students, and students of the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU). Each session will feature a lecture in English by a member of the USP faculty, followed by small group discussions and Q&A time with the faculty. The goal is for students to gain a deeper understanding of the lecture content by interacting, discussing, and presenting in English with classmates from a variety of native languages and cultural backgrounds. We hope that through the experience of reading, listening, speaking, and writing about academic content in English, USP students will increase their confidence not only in learning the English language but also in studying in English. In addition, since the content of the lectures will be about Japan, we expect Japanese students to play a role in supporting the learning of international students. For international students, it is hoped that learning about Japanese culture and nature together with Japanese students will help them discover their own culture, nature, language, and values.

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