

Course Held in English

Spring Semester

1. *Contemporary Japanese Culture* 2 credit

This lecture is composed of two parts. At first, you will learn about natural disasters in Japan, in particular about typhoon, earthquake and volcanic eruption. Further, you will recognize how to evacuate in such cases, because you may meet these disasters during your stay in Japan. Secondly, you will learn about many kinds of Japanese culture through practical lessons by experts and workshops.

2. *Japan Studies I* 2 credit

This course will focus on Japan's natural scenery, in particular the general topography of Japan. Natural scenery is affected with the climate of the region. In addition, since tectonic activity is very high in Japan, topography in Japan is very unique. Thus, in this course, students will consider why such topography exists in Japan, based on basic knowledge of geomorphology. In addition, these typical topographies are closely related to culture, civilization, and the religion of the region. The students will understand how Japanese people use these topographies for their living.

3. *Japan Studies II* 2 credit

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* 2 credit

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 VII* 2 credit

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.

6. *World Societies I* 2 credit

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

7. English Lecture B 2 credit

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.

8. English Lecture C 2credit

In this course, we learn about how to combat racism by closely reading Ibram X. Kendi’s *How to Be an Antiracist*. Racism has never stopped being a universal issue on the surface of this planet throughout human history. 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 society and, importantly, 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. In other words, when it comes to racism, bystanders are, knowingly or unknowingly, reinforcing racist institutions, beliefs, and policies, thus oppressing racial minorities. 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. Students must actively participate in class each day.

9. English Lecture E 2 credit

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.

Fall Semester

1. Contemporary Japanese Culture 2 credit

This lecture is composed of two parts. At first, you will learn about natural disasters in Japan, in particular about typhoon, earthquake and volcanic eruption. Further, you will recognize how to evacuate in such cases, because you may meet these disasters during your stay in Japan. Secondly, you will learn about many kinds of Japanese culture through practical lessons by experts and workshops.

2. Japan Studies IV 2credit

In Japan, each prefecture has its own food culture, and it is related with nature and history of the prefecture. For example, traditional food in Shiga Prefecture is related with ecology of Biwa Lake, and the ecosystem of Biwa Lake is very unique in the world. In this course, several typical example prefectures such as Shiga, Tokyo, Osaka Kyoto, Okinawa and Hokkaido are at first considered. Further, each students search about your interested prefecture to explain its food culture and related nature and history.

3. Japan Studies V 2 credit

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.

4. Japan Studies VI 2 credit

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

5. *World Societies II 2 credit*

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.

6. *English Lecture A 2 credit*

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.

7. *English Lecture D 2 credit*

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.

8. *English Lecture F 2 credit*

In this course, we are going to read *Pudd'nhead Wilson*, a novel written by Mark Twain, who is one of the most iconic American authors of all time. Twain is known for his keen sense of humor and witticism, which he often employs in his writing to portray and, more importantly, to critique social conventions of his times. One of the social issues the author waged war on with his writing was slavery. While *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is known as Twain's most famous anti-slavery novel, *Pudd'nhead Wilson* offers a more sardonic satire that criticizes slavery in the South. While slavery was abolished a long time ago, some of the wrongs in the antebellum South that the novel portrays—racism, violence, colorism, xenophobia, sexism, unfair legal system—will look eerily familiar to you. Indeed, the novel also gives us an insight into the social illnesses that America hasn't been cured of.

To fully understand and appreciate Twain's satire, we will read a small portion of the novel for each class meeting. Students are required to read assigned readings before class and actively participate in class discussions. The instructor will occasionally provide materials about historical and cultural backgrounds that will help you understand the novel.

9. *Lecture and Discussion in English 2 credit*

This class is a lecture course offered in English for USP students, exchange students, and students of the Japan Center for Michigan Universities (JCMU). The lecture will provide an overview of Japanese poetry and oral literature, from waka and haiku to modern poetry, and will examine the meanings and uses of various motifs related to "nature" in each period and genre. Through small group discussions, students will explore how the images and themes they perceive in the same poems and stories can differ among students from different cultures, native languages, and literary traditions. For students whose native language is Japanese, this will be an opportunity to learn to think, write, and discuss in English, as well as to support international students' learning about the Japanese language and culture.

9. *Academic Lectures in English 2 credit*

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.

*For the latest information, please refer to the syllabus search of UNIPA-USPo at the time of registration.