

15 SPECIALIZED COURSES



Japanology

In the Japanology Course, we explore human activities in Japan from a cultural point of view while positioning Japanese culture relative to various cultures in the world. We aim to address, jointly study and learn an extremely wide range of cultural and social issues from ancient to modern times concerning literature, arts, religion and philosophy. The course also provides opportunities to improve professional skills for reading ancient papers and reviewing documents, which are often required to deepen understanding of Japanese culture and society. Moreover, the course provides specialized training to students so that they can discuss Japanese culture and society by an academic process without being captivated by popular views of Japan. Our objective is to nurture individuals who can discuss Japan with specialized skills and high-level academic capabilities.

Students' research themes

Master course: Research on gender equality program of Kobe city; A study on the source History of *Onsenji-temple* in Kinosaki; A research on the thoughts of the flower arrangement practice in the Edo period; Images of Japanese performing arts displayed in journals for national propaganda; A Comparative Study of Horror Expressions and Characterization of Female Protagonists in Horror Games; A historical study on the practice of *gagaku* at Kumamoto-Han domain.

Doctoral course: Ethnographical study on the folk music and dance for rice-planting; A study of folk literature in connection with feudal lords in the early modern era; A study on cultural policy on radio broadcasting in the post-war Okinawa under US military occupation; A study on *iemoto* system in *cha-no-yu* (tea ceremony) since the modern era; A study of the hygiene problems in East Asia in the 19th century: focusing on an open port Incheon, Korea; A study of newspaper reports on Tottori earthquake in 1943; Cinema that "Records" an Author: The "New Wave" and the Avant-Garde Art Movement of the 1950's.

Teaching staff

Fumiaki ITAKURA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Japanese Visual Arts

Research fields: Studies on Japanese films and films in general. Based on the methodology of film study, Associate Professor Itakura studies Japanese films from international and historical viewpoints.

Shizue OSA, Professor

Subjects: Contemporary Japanese Society

Research fields: Studies on Modern Japanese history. Professor Osa conducts studies on the War memory and Occupied Japan.

Masato KARASHIMA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Japanese Social History

Research fields: Japan-Southeast Asia relations, American philanthropy, Transwar studies

Nobuyuki KONNO, Associate Professor

Subjects: Japanese Language and Culture

Research fields: Japanese intellectual history. Associate Professor Konno conducts studies on the nationalism from the 1920s to the 1940s from viewpoints with an awareness of history and religion.

Yaroslav SHULATOV, Associate Professor

Subjects: Japan-Russia Relations

Research fields: Russo-Japanese relations and the history of international relations in East Asia during the second half of XIX ~ first half of XX century, particularly the foreign policy of Japan and Russia (Soviet Union) and decision making process through the position of various political actors.

Naoko TERAUCHI, Professor

Subjects: Japanese Performing Arts

Research fields: Studies on Japanese traditional music and performing arts. In relation to various cultures in Asia and other parts of the world.

Asia-Pacific Culture Studies

Going through major changes in economy and international exchanges, the Asia-Pacific region is rapidly growing. In this sense it is one of the most active regions in the world. However, just following the superficial flow of such development is not enough to understand the characteristics of the region. East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Area all have extremely complex and diverse traditions, and have been Transformed by the wave of globalization. Therefore, in order to have a deep understanding of the characteristics of the region, we need to conduct specialized in-depth studies on many aspects including social structure, religion, history and economic circumstances. This course has a well-established guidance system where professors with diverse specialties teach research methods in classes on a broad range of research fields.

Students' research themes

- Studies on Thai wives who have Japanese husbands
- Representations and practices of Ainu Culture today ---Case studies of cultural activities in Shiraoi town
- Historical studies on the influence on the Japanese image in Australia from the early development of Australian-Japan relationships
- Naxi native official surnamed Mu in Lijiang, Yunnan during the Ming Period 14-17 centuries
- College students' conflicts about love and sex in Indonesia
- Studies on secretaries and the training of secretaries in Outer Mongolia in the Qing period
- A study about the Ownership of Farmlands and its Contracts in Inner Mongolia during Manchu Qing Period: Cases in Guihuacheng Tümed Banner (12th Asia Pacific Research Prize Winner article)

Teaching staff

Tomomi ITO, Professor

Subjects: Culture and Society in Southeast Asia

Research fields: Thai studies, studies on modern social history, Buddhism and women

Mamoru HAGIHARA, Professor

Subjects: Culture and Society in Mongolia

Research fields: Asian history, especially Mongolian and Chinese history from the Qing period to the present

Yasushi SADAYOSHI, Professor

Subjects: National Integration in Southeast Asia

Research fields: Modern history of Indonesia, studies on overseas Chinese

Shinichi TANIGAWA, Professor

Subjects: Society and Economy in China

Research fields: Chinese politics and society

New Professor (April 2022-)

European and American Culture Studies

In the European and American Culture Studies Course, we conduct multifaceted and comprehensive education and research on European and American societies and cultures, which have been playing a central role in world politics, economy, culture etc in modern times. Although the cultures developed in these regions spread worldwide, it is common knowledge that it is now critically reexamined. Moreover, there has recently been progress in studies on the societies and cultures in Europe and America that only played a peripheral role in establishing the modern era. Based on these past achievements, we reexamine the Western thoughts and values that seem deeply rooted in our modern lives and consciousness, and seek their meanings in the 21st century. We want to reveal the unknown depths of Europe and America through a course of concrete studies in a wide range of fields including history, language, religion, philosophy, literature, art and social system.

Students' research themes

The "German Legends" of the Grimm Brothers, A Study on William Morris, Acceptance of Victorian Culture in "Harry Potter", Modern French Fashion, Czech Romani Literature, Czech Baroque Studies, A Study on C. Bronte Establishment of the Mirandese language, Analysis of Visual Gags in I Love Lucy, Stereotype of the Japanese People in Hollywood Movies, Problems of Italian Immigration in America, Pacifism, Isolationism and Populism in the United States of America during Interwar Periods, Japan-Russian Relations through the Imperial Families, Belarusian Nationalism, Chinese Immigrants to the US.

Teaching staff

Hirotaka INOUE, Associate Professor

Subjects: Multiethnicity in North America

Research fields: Professor Inoue conducts American studies with a focus on the history of intellectuals in the United States.

Takuya OZAWA, Professor

Subjects: Latin America and Global History

Research fields: Professor Ozawa specializes in Latin America, especially the modern history of Central America. He studies ethnic issues and culture concerning export crops that largely regulate the society of Central America.

Takuya NISHITANI, Professor

Subjects: Literary and Visual Culture in North America

Research fields: American literature, especially Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and other writers of the American Renaissance; film studies, especially adaptation studies and comparative studies in the narrative representation in film and literature.

Keiji NOTANI, Professor

Subjects: Religion and Culture in Britain

Research fields: Professor Notani conducts studies the relation between Christian religion and English and American culture/literature. He wants to see how religion is involved in the formation of culture and view religion as an identity component for individuals and culture.

Cultural Anthropology

In the Cultural Anthropology Course, teaching staff specialized in various themes and regions provide a high-quality education and research curriculum. Today's various cultural issues are characterized by the dynamism of the conflict, division, integration, reconciliation, generation and extinction of various cultures and values under the influence of globalization. In the course, we jointly consider methods of allowing dialogues among various cultures based on deep intercultural understanding, by viewing the world from down-to-earth research investigation field work with broad and flexible perspectives. We welcome students who wish to be internationally successful specialists and researchers and foreign students who wish to conduct high-level anthropological studies.

Students' research themes

Master's program: cargo cult, Kazakh identity, tourism, multicultural orientalism, post-Soviet period, postcolonial, status of women in China, Boze in Akuseki Island, local Hawaiian, Peruvian living in Japan, primitive art, kula trade, fare trade in Bangladesh, Education of Nation-State, Over Sea Korean, International marriage, Vietnamese in Japan, Cultural Heritage, World Heritage, Murti-culturalism in Japan, Nikkei in Argentine, Korean American, Hispanic, bilingualism, Chinese American, Caribbean in America, Brooklyn Carnival, Native Canadian, sustainable tourism, ethnic media, multiracial in America, ethnic identity, South Americans in Japan, Nikkei Brazilian, Nikkei Hawaiian, life history, diaspora, transnationalism, Dominican baseball migrants, Pentecostalism in Jamaica, Rastafarian, Christianity and contextualization, development and women in Mexico, participation and development
Doctoral program: cultural authenticity, Aneityum of Vanuatu, historical anthropology, refugee, Karenni, homestay, the Experiment in International Living Care and Family of Korea, Social Change of Korean Village in China, Feminization of Migration, Over-Sea Chinese in Vietnam, Anthropology of Tourism on Vietnam, masculinity, gender in the Caribbean, popular music, reggae, soca, dancehall, identity politics, mixed race, 'Hafu', representation

Teaching staff

Kiyoshi UMEYA, Professor

Subjects: Ethnology

Research fields: Social anthropology, East African ethnography, studies on witchcraft and sorcery, Japanese folk-religion, anthropology of development

Yuka OISHI, Lecturer

Research Fields: Ecological anthropology, Environmental anthropology, Global history, Subsistence, Material culture, Siberian ethnography, Arctic area studies

Hiroki OKADA, Professor

Subjects: Ethnographic Research

Research fields: Societies in East Asia okada and Vietnam, re-organization of families and religions in the process of colonization and modernization, minorities and multiculturalism, Space Anthropology.

Tsuyoshi SAITO, Professor

Subjects: Cultural Anthropology

Research fields: Social anthropology, Middle Eastern ethnography, anthropological Islamic studies, Morocco

Hisashi SHIMOJO

Research Fields: Historical anthropology, Vietnamese and Southeast Asian studies, Water frontier, Wet zomia, ethnicity, religion, hybridity, migration/refugee, war, socialism, survival

Comparative Studies of Civilization and Culture

In this course, we deal with various aspects of civilization and culture that transcend the boundaries of various matters such as geography and language, and conduct comparative studies from a historical point of view concerning the dynamism of the transformation brought about by the transmission and propagation of such aspects with a focus on scientific and technical civilization and linguistic culture. With the asymmetric nature of advantages and disadvantages in civilization and culture in mind, we focus on such aspects as resistance, prejudice and creation underlying the phenomena considered to be unilateral acceptance, and aim to deepen our understanding of the interactions of such aspects and the bidirectionality of transformation based on the latest studies.

Students' research themes

Master's program: Foreigners in Meiji Japan, Text-Image Relations in the Classics, Gardens in Myths, View of Nature, Environmental Issues, Food and Toxic Chemicals, Whitehead's Philosophy of Organism, Xu Guang-qi's View on Mathematics

Teaching staff

Yuika KITAMURA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Translating Classical Literature

Research fields: The reception of classical Japanese literature in modern times with a focus on the "Tale of Genji."

Togo TSUKAHARA, Professor

Subjects: Science, Technology and Society

Research fields: Professor Tsukahara studies science history and technological societies.

Shiak KONDO, Lecture

Subjects: Cultural Anthrogy; Alaska Native Studies

Research fields: Dr.KONDO has been working with Alaskan Athabascans and is interested in human-animal relationship, multispecies ethnography, and Christianization.

Yuriko TANAKA, Associate Professor

Subjects: Philosophy and History of Modern Science.

Research Epistemology (philosophy of human scientific knowledge) and the 19th & 20th centuries history of atomic physics and biomedicine.

International Relations and Comparative Politics

We welcome students who are looking for chances to study Japanese politics and foreign affairs. You would consult with one of five professors of this department who are specialists in international relations, international political economy, security studies, public policies and urban administration. The area of research fields of graduate students are varied covering such countries as Japan, China, India, Europe, America, Middle East, etc. The staff, along with graduate and undergraduate students will be actively engaged in research work in line with the international standard. Students can master a variety of methodologies and approaches through the team teaching method run by five academic staff. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. This department offers foreign students the opportunity to study the internal politics and diplomacy of their home country from a comparative perspective.

Students' research themes

Thematic approach: Regional integration, Preventive diplomacy, Conflict and Peace building, Security, Ethnopolitics, Party politics, Democratization, Welfare state, Educational policy, Transnational relations, Contemporary history of International relations

Regional approach: EU studies, French politics, British politics, German politics, Spanish politics, Italian politics, Politics in Northern Europe, American politics, Politics in the Middle East, Politics in ex-Yugoslavia, Indian politics, Sino-Japanese relations, Sino-American relations, Politics in the Mediterranean

Teaching staff

Kazunari SAKAI, Professor

Subjects: International Relations

Research fields: European Union Studies, Migration Studies contemporary French politics and diplomacy

Maraharu YASUOKA, Professor

Subjects: Contemporary Politics

Research fields: Comparative Public Policy, American Politics and Government, Urban Politics Contemporary modern American politics (especially the federal system and urban issues)

Satoru NAKAMURA, Professor

Subjects: Regional Politics

Research fields: Preventive Diplomacy in the Middle East, Middle Eastern Political economy, Saudi Arabian History

Sho, NIIKAWA, Assistant Professor

Subjects: Political Institutions

Research fields: Making and Breaking Governments in Democracies, Politics in Germany and Europe, Political Science Methodology(especially Qualitative and Multimethod Research)

