

Course number		U-LAS07 10002 LE31					
Course title (and course title in English)		Culture and Traditions in Japan II Culture and Traditions in Japan II			Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Institute for Liberal Arts and Sciences Associate Professor,AKUZAWA KOYO
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences			Field(Classification)		Understanding Japan	
Language of instruction	English			Old group	Group A	Number of credits	2
Number of weekly time blocks	1	Class style	Lecture (Face-to-face course)			Year/semesters	2025 • Second semester
Days and periods	Tue.5		Target year	All students		Eligible students	International students
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
This class will overview modern Japanese history, and explore several classic and prototypical topics related to the current Japanese society, incorporating their historical aspects. The topics include World War II, discrimination, economic/political issues, and pop culture.							
[Course objectives]							
The primary goal of this class is for students to deepen their understanding of Japan by obtaining fundamental knowledge of modern Japanese history. Moreover, students are expected to gain an analytical perspective on the history and culture of their own country and region.							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
The class is divided into three parts: 1) lectures on the modern history of Japan (weeks 1-5), 2) lectures on selected topics (weeks 6-11), and 3) group presentations to be given by the students (weeks 12-14).							
Week 1: Pre-modern history, the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate Week 2: Meiji and Taisho period Week 3: Prewar Japan Week 4: Postwar Japan Week 5: From Heisei to present-day Japan Week 6: World War II and Japan Week 7: Discrimination in Japanese society Week 8: Economic issues of Japan Week 9: Political issues in Japan Week 10: Changes in youth culture Week 11: History of Manga and Anime Week 12: Group presentation Week 13: Group presentation Week 14: Group presentation Final exam Week 16: Feedback							
The schedule is subject to change according to the class ' s progress and students ' requests.							

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[Course requirements]

This class is limited to international students. There are no prerequisites, but it is preferable for students to be interested in developing their insight into Japan independently based on what they learn during the class.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

In-class participation: 30%

Group presentation: 30%

Final exam: 40%

[Textbooks]

Handouts will be provided.

[References, etc.]

(References, etc.)

Gordon, Andrew 『A Modern History of Japan: From Tokugawa Times to the Present』 (Oxford University Press, 2003)

Reischauer, Edwin O. 『Japan: The Story of a Nation, Fourth Edition』 (Tuttle Publishing, 2004)

Any other reference materials will be introduced during the lesson if necessary.

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Participants are required to work together with other participants to prepare a group presentation on a selected topic about Japanese culture and tradition.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Please check my office hours, location, and availability on KULASIS. Please make an appointment beforehand by e-mail. My e-mail address will be provided during the first lesson.