

Course number		U-LAS01 10002 LE38					
Course title (and course title in English)		Japanese History I-E2 Japanese History I-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Education Associate Professor, Niels van Steenpaal	
Group	Humanities and Social Sciences		Field(Classification)		History and Civilization(Foundations)		
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	2026 • First semester	
Days and periods	Mon.3		Target year	All students		Eligible students	For all majors
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
This course will offer an introduction to premodern Japanese history (~1600) from a global perspective. That is, we will approach the Japanese archipelago not as an isolated territory that seamlessly transformed into the nation state as we now know it, but as a geographical hub that has been shaped by various “ foreign ” encounters through the centuries. We will look at how trade, war, diplomacy and ideas fostered international connections that have played crucial roles in deciding the trajectory of Japan ’ s development.							
[Course objectives]							
Upon the successful completion of this course, students will: (1) have a general understanding of the major periods and events of Japanese premodern history. (2) gain a sensibility for the way in which the history of nation states is intimately bound up with, and cannot be told separately from global events.							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
The weekly topic schedule is as follows: 1. Introduction 2. Early Migration 3. Jomon 4. Yayoi I 5. Yayoi II 6. Early State Formation I 7. Early State Formation II 8. Imperial Period 9. Mongol Invasion I 10. Mongol Invasion II 11. East Asia War I 12. East Asia War II 13. Christianity I 14. Christianity II (final exam) 15. feedback							
[Course requirements]							
As a survey introduction class, this course will require no reading preparations, but basic competence in ----- Continue to Japanese History I-E2(2) ↓ ↓ ↓							

Japanese History I-E2(2)

English is required to fruitfully engage with the class content. Furthermore, although not a strict requirement, it is recommended that the student will either precede or follow up this course with the fall semester Japanese History II.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Grading will be based on a final exam only.

100% Final Exam

[Textbooks]

Not used

Although this class does not feature any required readings, it does recommend you familiarize yourself with the general outline of the period under discussion each class.

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Reviewing class notes and possibly clarifying unclear items through independent study.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

Students should be aware of the fact that student interest in this course always exceeds its capacity and that enrollment permission will be decided based on a random lottery.

Students who have inquiries of any kind are welcome to contact me by email. In doing so, however, please heed the following:

1. clearly indicate your name and the class to which your question pertains.
2. write in either Japanese or English, whichever language you are most proficient in.
3. write in a formal format appropriate to the university setting.

Emails that do not conform to all of these items will be sent back without a response.

[Essential courses]