

Course number		U-LAS01 20013 LE38					
Course title (and course title in English)		Japanese Intellectual History I-E2 Japanese Intellectual 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(Issues)	
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		Tue.3		Target year		All students	
				Eligible students		For all majors	
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
This course will introduce the student to the “ intellectual history ” of Japan, both as a body of knowledge, and as a particular historical method. That is, besides deepening our understanding of the philosophies, ideologies, and mentalities that helped shape Japan, we will also develop the skills necessary to meaningfully examine these ideas as academic problems. Rather than a chronological survey, the approach of this course is thematic. Each class will focus on the significance of one particular idea/phenomenon. The key terms for this semester will be space, time, and culture.							
[Course objectives]							
Upon the successful completion of this course, students will: (1)be familiar with the presuppositions and narratives of historical theory. (2)have a general understanding of the ideas and ideologies of the Japanese early modern and modern period. (3)learn to use the historical method to question cultural assumptions.							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
The tentative weekly topic schedule is as follows: 1. Introduction 2. Why Study History? 3. Why Study Intellectual History? 4. Why Study Japan? 5. Time 6. Premodern Time 7. Modern Time 8. Historical Time 9. Space 10. Japanese Space 11. Global Space 12. Asian Space 13. Oriental Space 14. What is Culture? (final exam) 15. feedback (Please note that the above themes and their order might vary from year to year)							
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Japanese Intellectual History I-E2(2)

[Course requirements]

As a survey introduction class, this course will require no reading preparations, but basic competence in English is required to fruitfully engage with the class content. Furthermore, although not a strict requirement, it is recommended that the student has a grasp of the basic outlines of Japanese history.

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Grading will be based on a final exam only.
100% Final Exam

[Textbooks]

Not used

[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]