

Course number		U-LAS01 20018 LE38					
Course title (and course title in English)		Japanese Popular Culture I-E2 Japanese Popular Culture I-E2		Instructor's name, job title, and department of affiliation		Graduate School of Law Associate Professor,MURPHY, Mahon	
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	Wed.2		Target year	Mainly 1st & 2nd year students		Eligible students	For all majors
[Overview and purpose of the course]							
The purpose of this class is to discuss the historical development of Japanese Popular Culture from its roots in the 19th Century to the end of the Second World War. The Meiji Period ushered in the opening of Japan attracting a new global audience to Japanese culture. This global interaction also impacted the development of popular culture in Japan. Combining high politics and diplomacy with sport, theatre, anime and mass media this class frames Japanese Popular Culture as shaped by domestic and international counter-culture trends. The course is suitable for both students who have previously studied popular culture and those who are new comers.							
[Course objectives]							
The Course has 4 goals 1 Gain an understanding of the history of popular culture 2 Recognize the political importance of popular culture 3 Read analyze and discuss academic texts in English 4 Encourage dialogue and discussion among students							
[Course schedule and contents)]							
The course will develop as follows: 1. Introduction: What is Popular Culture? The Birth of Popular Culture in Japan 2. Popular Culture in the Edo Period 3. What the Hell! Social Unrest in the Bakumatsu Global Japanese Popular Culture 4. Foreign Experts in Japan during the Meiji Era 5. Japanese Theatre on the Global Stage 6. The Evils of Baseball: Modern Sport Mass Media 7. The Modern Girl: Popular Culture and Feminism 8. Nuclear Families, The Imperial Household and Below 9. Takarazuka Revue, Gender, Theatre, and Diplomacy							
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Japanese Popular Culture I-E2(2)

Popular Culture, Empire and War

10. Tourism within the Japanese Empire

11. Displaying Empire, The 1940 Olympics

12. The Movie Industry at War

13. War and the Birth of the Anime Industry

14. Review

15. Feedback

Total:14 classes and 1 feedback class

[Course requirements]

None

[Evaluation methods and policy]

Evaluation is based on the following:

Active Participation in Class: 20%

4 Individual Assignments: 10%x4

2 Group Assignments: 20% x2

- Those who are absent from four classes or more without good reason will not pass.

[Textbooks]

Not used

[Study outside of class (preparation and review)]

Students will be given readings and primary sources to help them understand class content and to prepare for in class discussion.

[Other information (office hours, etc.)]

[Essential courses]