

## Appendix 18: List of Japan-related Courses Taught in Japanese for 2026/2027

Note: This is an excerpt from the syllabus.

Depending on the number of applicants, enrollment may be determined by lottery.

The courses listed below are regular undergraduate courses focusing on Japan. They are also recommended for exchange students with strong Japanese proficiency who wish to further improve their language skills through participating lectures on Japan taught in Japanese.

### First Semester

Day	Period	Year Level	Course Title(English)	Course Title(Japanese)	Department	Campus	Contents
Wed.	5	All	History of Japanese Art I	日本美術史 I A	General Education Courses	Mejiro	From the Jomon period to the Kamakura period, we will survey the development of artistic forms across each era while appreciating major artworks. We will also explore the circumstances and techniques behind each piece's creation. By grounding our understanding in the environment surrounding the works and considering the context in which these forms emerged, we will uncover the intentions embedded within each piece and the craftsmanship of their creators. While we are fortunate to have opportunities to see the actual pieces in museums, rather than merely appreciating the finished works—the “results,” so to speak—if we turn our attention to the “process” of their creation, relics from a distant past may feel more accessible across the ages. Through this course, we will view numerous works, starting by becoming familiar with Japanese art.
Thu.	1	All	Traditional Japanese Performing Arts	日本の伝統芸能 A	General Education Courses	Mejiro	We will learn about the history and characteristics of traditional Japanese performing arts (Nohgaku - including Noh and Kyogen, Bunraku puppet theater, Kabuki, and Japanese dance), deepening our understanding through videos and live performances. The class will provide a hands-on experience where students can feel the significance and unique features of the musicality and physicality inherent in these arts by witnessing the performances and movements of actively practicing performers both domestically and internationally up close.
Fri.	4	All	Japan in History I	歴史に見る日本 I	General Education Courses	Mejiro	This course examines the transitions and significance of imperial succession during the formative period of the ancient Japanese state, spanning from the beginning of the Kofun period in the 3rd century to the first half of the Heian period. We will trace how the nature of imperial succession changed in accordance with various stages of state power.
Fri.	2	All	Theories of Japaneseness I	日本人論 I	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	What does it mean to be 'Japanese'? This might be something you haven't given much thought to in your life so far. In an age of globalization, knowing who we are and being able to talk about ourselves is extremely important. However, Japanese people are often said to have a low self-awareness and national consciousness, and are generally untrained in thinking or speaking about themselves and their collective identity. In this course, we will examine various arguments regarding 'What is a Japanese person?' from diverse angles, including ideology, culture, history, and religion, prompting you to consider this question for yourselves.

Day	Period	Year Level	Course Title(English)	Course Title(Japanese)	Department	Campus	Contents
Mon.	3	All	History of Japanese Thought I	日本思想史 I	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•To consider the introduction, adoption, and establishment of the concept of democracy in Japan, we will examine the Japanese culture of discussion and its underlying philosophy from the perspective of the 'spirit of dialogue and conferencing.'</li> <li>•We will explore the modern and contemporary Japanese culture of discussion and its philosophy primarily through four archetypes: the Yoriai (local assembly), the parliamentary system, wartime conferences, and facilitation.</li> <li>•The course is primarily planned as a lecture series, but students will also engage in various forms of 'meetings' through role-playing exercises.</li> <li>•We plan to hold a Model United Nations workshop with the cooperation of student assistants."</li> </ul>
Mon.	4	All	History of Japanese Thought III	日本思想史III	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	We will consider the ideological characteristics of the Japanese people through sacred sites—places that have served as centers for religion and faith, and as the stage for miracles and spiritual events, protected and cherished since ancient times. While deciphering literary texts written about these sacred sites, such as Shinto shrines, Buddhist temples, and sacred mountain pilgrimage sites, and occasionally incorporating paintings and videos, we will learn about Japanese thought and faith from the literary discourse surrounding these holy places.
Tue.	2	All	History of Japanese Lifestyle III (Culture of Food)	日本生活文化史III (食文化)	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	Japanese food culture has been shaped by influences from various countries and regions. In this course, we will lecture on the formation of Japanese food culture by providing examples of the acceptance of foreign food cultures, and the transformation, development, or decline of existing eating styles. Against the backdrop of the natural environment, politics, economy, religion, culture, and other social conditions of each era, we will explain the characteristics of those times and the transition of food—specifically what kind of ingredients were used and how they were prepared and consumed. By studying how past eating styles have evolved up to the present day, students will acquire the ability to think about the future of food from a contemporary perspective."
Mon.	2	All	History of Japanese Lifestyle V (Archaeology)	日本生活文化史V (考古)	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	The objective of this course is to understand the history of Japanese lifestyle and culture through the study of archaeology in prehistoric and ancient Japan. The most fundamental basis for understanding prehistoric and ancient life culture comes from the results obtained through the excavation surveys of archaeological sites. Therefore, we will focus on important sites that were groundbreaking in Japanese archaeological research, covering each period—the Paleolithic, Jomon, Yayoi, Kofun, Asuka, and Nara periods. We will interpret what kinds of structural remains (ikou) and unearthed artifacts (ibutsu) were discovered at these respective sites, and how the past lifestyle and culture are depicted through specific examples of these archaeological excavations.

Day	Period	Year Level	Course Title(English)	Course Title(Japanese)	Department	Campus	Contents
Tue.	3	2-4	Japanese Lifestyle Culture II (Rites of passage)	日本生活文化論Ⅱ（通過儀礼）	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	Rites of passage such as Shichi-Go-San and Coming-of-Age ceremonies in Japan remain vibrant in modern society and represent the most familiar traditional rites for us. This lecture focuses specifically on rites of passage within Japanese culture rooted in daily life, exploring their origins, development, and the various aspects of attire that continue to be passed down today. We will examine the meaning, history, and attire associated with these familiar rites of passage that remain vibrant in contemporary Japanese society, while also considering challenges related to the transmission of these rituals.

## Second Semester

Day	Period	Year Level	Course Title(English)	Course Title(Japanese)	Department	Campus	Contents
Wed.	5	All	History of Japanese Art II	日本美術史Ⅱ A	General Education Courses	Mejiro	We will examine the development of artistic forms across different periods by appreciating major artworks spanning from the Muromachi to the Showa eras. Furthermore, we will explore the circumstances and techniques that led to the creation of these works. By considering the background environment surrounding the art—the context in which these forms were produced—we can investigate the intentions embedded in each piece and the skills of the creators. We are fortunate to have opportunities to see the actual works in museums; however, by focusing not just on the 'results' of the finished products, but also on the 'process' of their creation, these artifacts from the distant past will likely feel more immediate and connected across time. Through this course, we will view numerous works of art and begin by familiarizing ourselves with Japanese art.
Thu.	4	All	Traditional Japanese Performing Arts	日本の伝統芸能 B	General Education Courses	Mejiro	We will learn about the history and characteristics of traditional Japanese performing arts (Nohgaku - including Noh and Kyogen, Bunraku puppet theater, Kabuki, and Japanese dance), deepening our understanding through videos and live performances. The class will provide a hands-on experience where students can feel the significance and unique features of the musicality and physicality inherent in these arts by witnessing the performances and movements of actively practicing performers both domestically and internationally up close.
Fri.	2	All	Japan in History II	歴史に見る日本Ⅱ	General Education Courses	Mejiro	Over the course of more than 150 years of modern Japanese history, starting with the 'impact of the West,' the nation and its society have undergone a massive transformation. The current state of Japan's nation and society is not self-evident; rather, it is something that was formed through these historical experiences. In this lecture, we will discuss several important problem areas related to the trajectory of modern Japanese politics, diplomacy, and society, examining them topic by topic.
Fri.	2	All	Theories of Japaneseness II	日本人論Ⅱ	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	The theme of this course is the history of the 'ie' (house/family unit) and the 'katei' (family life) in modern Japan. We will learn about the historical transition of institutions, ideals, values, and the actual state of family life that were formed in modern Japan, using the establishment of the early modern 'ie' as a backdrop. By referring to diverse academic discourses and literary works concerning the family, the goal is to acquire foundational knowledge necessary for understanding the history, culture, and society of modern Japan. Through this, students will grasp the background to contemporary issues surrounding the family in Japan and gain clues for contemplating the future of the family.

Day	Period	Year Level	Course Title(English)	Course Title(Japanese)	Department	Campus	Contents
Fri.	4	All	History of Japanese Thought II	日本思想史Ⅱ	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	The objective of this course is to understand the foundational characteristics of Japanese culture by examining the Meiji Restoration from the perspectives of intellectual history and women's history. The lecture will focus primarily on modern empresses while also addressing themes relevant to women of that era—such as court ladies and female students—including education, industrial promotion, and welfare, all of which remain connected to contemporary issues. Through deciphering diverse historical materials related to these themes (public documents, newspaper/magazine articles, diaries, paintings, waka poetry, etc.), we will consider the role of the empress and the transformation of thought in advancing Japan's modernization.
Mon.	4	All	History of Japanese Thought IV	日本思想史Ⅳ	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	This course examines pre-modern Christian thought in Japan, focusing primarily on Kirishitan literature (Christian-influenced literature). In the latter half, we will also touch upon Ryūnosuke Akutagawa's Christian-themed works from the modern era, considering the later influence of the Kirishitan faith and thought, as well as the significance and value that Kirishitan literature has left in the history of Japanese literature.
Tue.	2	All	History of Japanese Lifestyle IV (Culture of Food)	日本生活文化史Ⅳ（食文化）	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	We will study the origins and development of the foods we typically eat every day, and how they spread, using a comparative cultural perspective. Furthermore, we will explain the thoughts and wishes people have invested in food, as well as dining manners (etiquette) and taboos (food prohibitions), prompting students to consider why such practices are necessary. We will discuss traditional Japanese food culture while keeping global differences in mind, covering topics such as seasonings, how to prepare dashi (broth), and food culture that developed during the Edo period, divided into specific topics.
Mon.	1	2-4	Japanese Lifestyle Culture III (Housing Culture)	日本生活文化論Ⅲ（住文化論）	Department of Japanese Studies	Toyama	Japanese architecture has evolved independently while absorbing foreign cultures. This lecture aims to understand Japanese dwellings by surveying the technical characteristics and historical development of Japanese residential architecture, primarily wooden structures. Through this course, students will gain an understanding of the history of Japanese housing, learn methods for approaching architecture through historical materials, and further comprehend the formation of contemporary housing. The course will be lecture-based, elucidating major examples of Japanese residential architecture from prehistoric times to the modern era using diverse materials such as literature, drawings, paintings, and photographs. It will promote multifaceted understanding by considering spatial concepts, cultural backgrounds, and social contexts.

## 1 year course

For 1 year courses, classes begin in April and the final examinations are held at the end of January.

Day	Period	Year Level	Course Title(English)	Course Title(Japanese)	Department	Campus	Contents
Sat.	1	2-4	Contemporary Manga Studies : Lecture	現代マンガ学講義	Common to the Faculty of Letters	Mejiro	Because manga has developed as a mass medium and is such a routine part of our daily lives, it is easy to overlook its background and historical context. In this class, we will reconsider 'manga as a medium,' primarily proceeding from two directions. One is to approach manga from social and cultural perspectives and think about its current relevance to us. The other is to examine manga in terms of its formal aspects and expressive techniques, investigating how manga is constructed as a visual medium. Through these explorations, students will also learn the research methods and ethics necessary for tasks such as writing academic papers.