

Subject card

Subject name and code	Japanese Area Studies, PG_00137255						
Field of study	Japanese Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group Subject group related to scientific research in the field of study		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form		credit		
Conducting unit	Division of Socio-Economic Geography -> Institute of Socio-Economic Geography and Spatial Management -> Faculty of Social Sciences -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Joanna Stępień				
	Teachers		dr Joanna Stępień				
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The purpose of this course is to expand on the basic sightseeing information about geography, society, natural and cultural environment of Japan (acquired during Introduction to Japanese Studies) by paying special attention to the regional diversity of the Japanese Islands. Students will have the opportunity to acquire a cross-section of a wide range of national sightseeing information by region of Japan and learn a great deal of practical information useful during their stay in Japan.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[JAPL3_U04] Student can acquire knowledge and develop his research skills independently and under the guidance of a research supervisor, using various sources in Polish, Japanese and a foreign language of his choice.	- by analyzing sources, acquires knowledge and develops Japanese skills;	[SU3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_K06] Student is aware of the importance of Japanese culture in world culture and recognizes the positive socio-cultural values of Japan from which he can draw for personal development and effective cross-cultural communication.	- is aware of the peculiarities and importance of Japanese culture for the development of culture worldwide;	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_U01] Student can search, analyze, evaluate, select and use information using modern techniques to obtain, classify and analyze information from sources in Polish, Japanese and a foreign language of choice, according to the instructions of the supervisor.	- using scientific sources and databases, is able to find information on the social, historical-cultural and geographical realities of Japan;	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_K07] Student recognizes and respects the differences in viewpoints determined by different national and cultural backgrounds and has a readiness to work for the integration of cultures.	- recognizes and respects cultural and social differences in Poland and Japan;	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_W05] At an advanced level, student knows and understands various aspects of Japanese culture and the Japanese civilization circle.	- to an advanced degree, knows and understands the geographical, administrative and economic aspects of Japan's circle of civilization;	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_K01] Student is aware of the scope of his professional knowledge and skills and understands the need for further continuous development in professional skills, as well as personal and social competence.	- is aware of the social, economic and geographic diversity found in Japan;	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[JAPL3_W03] Student knows the most important historical and cultural events and processes, social, administrative-political and economic realities, and selected types of social, administrative-political, cultural, economic structures and institutions in Japan.	- knows the main administrative and political realities and selected types of administrative-political and economic structures and institutions in Japan;	[SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_U10] Student can argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions.	- knows how to use information from various sources to prepare a paper on Japanese issues;	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work

Subject contents	1. Geography: location on the world map and borders, characteristics of an island state, extent of territory and disputed territories. 2. Environment: climatic variation, seasons, mountains and sea of daily life and in culture. 3. Natural disasters: practical news. 4. Flora and fauna: typical and endemic species, ecology and environmental protection. 5. Society: national and ethnic minorities in Japan, Japanese diasporas in the world, social stratification. 6. Tourism: regional attraction, natural and cultural sights, transportation - practical news. 7. Culinary culture: regional diversity of Japanese cuisine. 8. Administrative division of Japan: traditional regions, today's provinces, major urban, industrial, agricultural centers. 9. Characteristics of northern regions of Japan: Hokkaidō, Tōhoku. 10. Characteristics of eastern regions of Japan: Kantō, Chūbu. 11. Characteristics of the western regions of Japan: Kinki, Chūgoku. 12. Characteristics of the island of Shikoku. 13. Characteristics of Kyūshū Island. 14. Characteristics of the Nansei Islands.		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	Basic knowledge and skills obtained in the course Introduction to Japanese Studies.		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Written work on the terms agreed with the instructor	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	Alt, Matt. Pure invention. How Japanese pop culture conquered the world. Kraków: Znak Publishing House, 2021. Bornoff, Nicholas. Japan. A National Geographic guide. Translated by Piotr Amsterdamski. Warsaw: G+J RBA, 2009. Dougill, John. Japans World Heritage Sites. Unique Culture, Unique Nature. Tokyo, Rutland Vermont, Singapore: Tuttle, 2014. Kerr, Alex. Dogs and Demons. The dark sides of Japan. Krakow: Universitas, 2008. Kordzińska-Nawrocka, Iwona. Japanese culinary culture. Warsaw: Japonica, 2021. Mydel, Rajmund. The natural environment and man in Japan. Kraków: Oficyna Wydawnicza AFM, 2007. Ugorowska, Dorota. Understanding Japan. Gdynia: Novae Res Publishing House, 2020.
	Supplementary literature	Kerr, Alex. Japan Lost. Kraków: Karakter Publishing House, 2019. Milewski, Piotr. Japanese Diaries. Notes from the Year of the Rabbit and the Year of the Horse. Warsaw: Świat Książki Publishing House, 2023. Tomanski, Rafal. Tatami versus chairs. On the Japanese and Japan. Warsaw: Muza Literary Publishing House, 2013.
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Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	1.To what extent are the opportunities for settlement development in Japan dependent on the terrain? 2.To what extent has landforms influenced agricultural development opportunities in Japan? 3.How do landforms and land extension affect transportation in Japan? 4.How have seismic zones and the threat of earthquakes forced the development of construction technology in Japan? 5.Does and how does the diversity of climate zones translate into the development of tourism in Japan? 6.How does the problem of Japan's aging population affect the country's economic development? 7.Why do Japanese people live so long? What are the most important factors affecting the health of the Japanese population? 8.How does migration policy affect the presence of minority nationalities in Japan? 9.What is the problem of economic stratification of Japanese society? 10.What is the importance of the capital city of Tokyo in the economic development of the country?	
Work placement	Not applicable	

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