University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Japanese area studies, PG_00209675		
Field of study	Japanese Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2027	Academic year of realisation of subject	2027/2028
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		

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_U11] Can effectively plan work on assigned tasks and work in a multilingual and intercultural team, including identifying and analyzing barriers to intercultural communication.	Is able to effectively plan and carry out assigned tasks related to Japanese cultural studies.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_U08] Can prepare and deliver an oral presentation and participate in a debate on cultural, social, and economic topics related to Japan.	Is able to analyze research findings and present them in a manner consistent with scientific principles.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SU3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_W02] Possesses advanced knowledge of various aspects of Japanese culture (material, spiritual, artistic, and everyday) in a global context.	Possesses advanced knowledge of the geographical factors shaping Japanese culture (material, spiritual, artistic, and everyday) and is able to analyze them in a global context.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_W05] Is familiar with specialized terminology in the fields of science, culture, and religion; linguistics; and other disciplines relevant to the Japanese Studies program.	Knows and correctly uses specialized geographical terminology related to Japanese regional studies.	[SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion [SW3] text preparation/written work
	[JAPL3_W10] Understands the interdisciplinary connections between linguistics, cultural and religious studies, and other disciplines within Japanese studies.	In 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_K02] Is ready to actively participate in intercultural dialogue, promote Japanese culture, and initiate activities for cultural integration.	Is prepared to actively participate in intercultural dialogue, promote Japanese culture and heritage, and initiate and carry out activities aimed at cultural integration.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion [SK3] text preparation/written work [SK8] observation of student's independent or team 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.
	eResources addresses	
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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