University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Introduction to Japanology, PG_00137257						
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 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	1		ECTS credits	2.0			
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form	credit			
Conducting unit	Division of East Asian Culture and Languages -> Institute of Russian and Eastern Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector						
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		dr Terumichi Tsuda				
	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 the course Introduction to Japanese Studies is to familiarize the student with the basic issues of Japanese civilization, including geography, language, art, culture, traditions, philosophical systems and religion, as well as contemporary political, social and economic issues of Japan.						

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[JAPL3_W02] Possesses advanced knowledge of various aspects of Japanese culture (material, spiritual, artistic, and everyday) in a global context.	Knows and understands the key processes shaping contemporary Japanese culture.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[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 initiate and implement initiatives aimed at cultural integration in both local and international communities.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[JAPL3_K04] Is ready to fulfill social obligations and co-organize activities for the benefit of the intercultural community.	Has the competence to fulfill social obligations and to help organize activities aimed at creating a positive and inclusive intercultural environment in the context of Polish-Japanese relations.	[SK2] presentation/project/paper/ report [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work
[JAPL3_U03] Uses basic theoretical tools of cultural and religious studies and linguistics in the analysis of Japanese culture and language.	Uses the most important theories on Japan in the fields of linguistics and cultural studies.	[SU2] presentation/project/paper/ report
[JAPL3_W10] Understands the interdisciplinary connections between linguistics, cultural and religious studies, and other disciplines within Japanese studies.	Understands the importance of a multidisciplinary study of Japanese culture and society.	[SW2] presentation/project/paper/ report

Subject contents

The main contents discussed in the course include:

1. Japan - geographical characteristics of Japan, territory and environment.
2. Japanese people - ethnogenesis and identity, characteristics and demographic structure of society.
3. Japanese language and writing - problems of classification, outline of the history of the development of language and writing.
4. Japanese thought - major philosophical and religious trends, Japanese aesthetics.
5. Tradition and rituals - calendar and major holidays, rites of passage in the life of a Japanese/Japanese woman.
6. Material culture - outline of arts, crafts, architecture, fashion.
7. Intangible culture - outline of performing arts, classical music, traditional skills.
8. State - the imperial family and national symbols. Government and political parties. Law and the judiciary. Education, health and social welfare system. Defense.
9. Society - outline of current social problems in Japan and social policy.
10. Politics - current issues of Japan's domestic and international politics.
11. Economy - history of development, major industries, future prospects.
12. Media - press, radio, television, internet, social media.
13. Popular culture - film, popular music, comics and animation, fashion and youth subcultures, sports and entertainment.
14. Japan in research - an outline of the history of Japanology, issues of Orientalism, major trends and research centers, sources and tools of the Japanologist/Japanist.
15. Japan in Poland, Poland in Japan - an outline of the history of Polish-Japanese relations.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
A credit work in the form of a presented project/presentation (credit standards in accordance with the UG Academic Regulations)	51.0%	100.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature	Literature required for class credit (excerpts): Hendry, Joy. The Japanese: culture and society. Kraków: Jagiellonian University Publishing House, 2013. Kordzińska-Nawrocka, Iwona and Agnieszka Kozyra. Tradition in the popular culture of Japan. Warsaw: Polish Japonist Foundation, 2017. Kubiak Ho-Chi, Beata. Japanese aesthetics and art: selected issues. Kraków: Universitas, 2009. Melanowicz, Mikolaj. Civilization of contemporary Japan: an introduction to research. Warsaw: Polish Japan Foundation, 2018. Varley, Paul H. Japanese culture. Kraków: Jagiellonian University Publishing House, 2006. Zajączkowski, Jakub. Contemporary Japan : society, politics, economy. Torun: Adam Marszałek Publishing House, 2022.
Supplementary literature	Materials selected by the instructor: chapters of monographs, journal articles, audiovisual materials, Internet sources.
eResources addresses	

Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	
Work placement	Not applicable

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