

HUM-445

**Contemporary Japan II**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Humanities and Social Sciences	MA2	Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	90h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>3 weekly</b>
Project	3 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	<b>60</b>

**It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline.**

**Summary**

This introductory course is an inquiry into the culture of Japan - its thought and way of life - that is designed to foster future study of the archipelago. It elucidates the specificities of a Japanese identity that is imbued with both tradition and openness to innovation.

**Content**

**See the full description of the course in the fall semester HUM-444.**

The content depends on the topic of the research linked to the thematics of the autumn semester.

**Keywords**

Interculturality, Do, Shinto, Zen, arts, communication, robotics, food, innovation, ethics, anime, cinema

**POLY-perspective :**

- interdisciplinary perspective
- creative perspective

<https://www.epfl.ch/schools/cdh/cdhs-vision/>

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Develop a critical methodology for studying ethnocentric thinking
- Interpret cultural stereotypes attached to Japan (spirituality, gender, arts)
- Develop an intellectual argument on a proposition relevant to the course
- Synthesize the array of knowledge necessary to have a good understanding of social integration in Japan
- Synthesize the contributions of contemporary Japan (innovation, work ethics, spirituality, robotics, arts)
- Compose or write a memoir
- Use a work methodology appropriate to the task

**Transversal skills**

- Communicate effectively with professionals from other disciplines.
- Communicate effectively, being understood, including across different languages and cultures.
- Take account of the social and human dimensions of the engineering profession.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking

### Teaching methods

Fall semester: **lecture and visiting speakers + supervision** (English/French) of the elaboration of a research plan  
Spring semester: **supervision** of research, mini-colloquium, a memoir sample will be furnished to students

### Expected student activities

Elaboration of an individual or group research plan, active participation, critical lecture of articles and books, working discipline and time management, writing skills (English/French)

- Fall semester: written examination, research plan (two pages: title, issue, detailed plan, bibliography)
- Spring semester: abstract (300 words), participation to a mini-colloquium, memoir (4500 words)

### Assessment methods

Oral presentation at the mini-colloquium (40%), memoir (60%)

### Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	No

### Resources

#### Bibliography

Bibliography and specialized resources on thematics will be at disposal on the moodle