HUM-445 **Contemporary Japan II**

Vogel Chevroulet Irène Elizabeth

| Cursus | Sem. | Type |
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| Humanities and Social Sciences | MA2 | Obl. |

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

**Il n'est pas autorisé de se retirer de cette matière après le délai d'inscription.**

## 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

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| Office hours | Yes |
| Assistants | No |

## Resources

### Bibliography

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