

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
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 paper 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 (250 words), participation to a mini-colloquium, paper (4000 words)

Assessment methods

Oral presentation at the mini-colloquium (50%), paper (50%)

Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes

Resources

Bibliography

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