

TUJP-3 Course Description

as of April 7, 2021

Class title:	Instructor(s):	Course objectives and synopsis:
Orientation	GLC	The orientation will give students an introduction to Tohoku University, the program content, schedule, buddy system, and other important points. Also, participants will give a short self-introduction.
Japanese Language	Japanese language instructors	In this basic class, students will acquire the linguistic and cultural knowledge needed for student life in Japan. The class uses original videos to provide a "virtual study abroad" experience and teach vocabulary, kanji, and authentic expressions with conversations. It also provides them chances to encounter the diversity of the Japanese language, increase their awareness of using situationally appropriate language, and expand their communicative skills. The program aims to increase student motivation for learning Japanese.
Japanese Society & Culture A: Introduction to Japanese yōkai	Kiya Okhlopkova	This is an introductory course on Japanese “yōkai” (supernatural creatures of Japanese folklore), their perception through the times, and the development of the “kwaidan” culture. We will examine the history of “yō kai” studies in Japan and their classification, and also look into their gender aspect and urbanization. If there is time left, we might also hold a short discussion about ghostly stories.
Japanese Society & Culture B: Society and Foreign Language Education in Japan: A dialogue with course-registered students	Yukako Yonezawa	This session is a part of the course titled “Society and Foreign Language Education in Japan”. The students who registered for the course will provide a couple of topics they would like to discuss with the TUJP students in terms of foreign language education and learning. The session expects productive exchange regarding the educational/learning systems and practices among different countries.

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Japanese Society & Culture C: Astrobiology and the Origin of Life	Yoshihiro Furukawa	In recent years, research into the origins of life and astrobiology have been greatly advanced by developments in molecular biology, earth/planetary science, and astronomy. This class will introduce students to the latest research on the origins of life and astrobiology, and explore how much we understand about how life started.
Japanese Society & Culture D: Promoting Human Rights Education	Mino Takahashi	In this class, we will learn about Human Rights, and how they are closely related to our daily lives. After introducing the concept and history of Human Rights, we will examine and discuss a particular legal case related to the right to education as a Human Right in Japan. Also, participants will reflect on their lives, think about Human Rights issues that are important to them, then find solutions through group discussions.
Japanese Society & Culture E: Japan's International Cooperation in Higher Education	Akiyoshi Yonezawa Naoki Umemiya (Japan International Cooperation Agency)	In this class, we will examine what makes Japanese higher education attractive internationally and how international cooperation and exchange in higher education could be promoted. We will discuss the development of higher education in East Asia and the role of Japanese universities in this context. Then, the history of and current international cooperation in Japan's higher education will be discussed.
Japanese Society & Culture F: Introduction to Japanese Culture and Sendai by Tohoku University Students	Rumi Watanabe	In this class, Tohoku University students will introduce traditional and popular Japanese culture and Sendai using activities such as quizzes etc. There will also be Q&A sessions. Students will enjoy interacting with each other while learning about various topics, including seasonal Japanese events, customs, trends among the youth, and recommended spots around Sendai.

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Japanese Society & Culture G: Introduction to International Student Exchange in Japan	Yukiko Shimmi	<p>This class will provide students an overview of incoming and outgoing international students at Japanese universities, and deepen their knowledge of related policies, current trends, and problems. The class will consist of lectures and student discussions.</p> <p>Pre-lecture assignment: Before the start of classes, please research the number of incoming/outgoing international students, and government and university policies being undertaken to promote international student exchange, in your country/region.</p>
Japanese Society & Culture H: Education and SDGs: A global review and Japan's experiences	Jing Liu	<p>This lecture aims to provide participants an introduction to education as both a goal and a means to the sustainable development goals. After reviewing global practices in constructing inclusive and quality education for all, the lecture introduces Japan's experiences and challenges in building a sustainable society through education.</p> <p>Please read through the following report before taking this lecture. UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report 2020 https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/report/2020/inclusion</p>
Japanese Society & Culture I: Introduction to Japanese Ukiyo-e	Elena Fabbretti	<p>This is going to be an introductory course to Ukiyo-e, the Japanese art of woodblock prints. During the Edo period, Ukiyo-e prints were representations of the floating world for ordinary townspeople's enjoyment. We will see some main works of masters, such as Hokusai and Hiroshige, and how their prints influenced Western modern art (Japonism). If there is time left, we might discuss popular prints as art and the relation between Eastern and Western art.</p>

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Japanese Society & Culture J: Wrapping culture in Japan (Furoshiki)	Mie Sato Yuka Sakamoto	<p>Course objectives and synopsis: "Furoshiki —the hardworking fabric"; In this class we will learn furoshiki wrapping techniques and have a picnic at a nearby park. You will learn how a scarf can become a purse or a cardigan, or a bandanna can become a waist-pouch, a wrap for a glass, or a bread bag.</p> <p>Please bring: a handkerchief about 50 cm square, or other large piece of fabric. A scarf is also fine.</p> <p>Biography of Ms. Mie Sato: I currently work as an instructor of gift-wrapping and traditional Japanese wrapping methods in Sendai. In this class, I will teach you about the furoshiki, which is one of Japan's traditional tools. It is sometimes called "magic fabric" in elementary school textbooks. By taking this class, you will learn to use your own bandannas and scarves in new and surprising ways.</p>
Japanese Society & Culture K: Introduction to Japanese Classical Literature	Le Yu	<p>This lecture will introduce Japanese classical literature, especially the war tales composed during the medieval period, and will focus on the narrative of the battles to reveal the dominant thoughts about and understanding of conflict and wars in pre-modern Japan. Examining the thoughts reflected in the war tales will help develop a better idea of the historical views of the Japanese, which have largely shaped the Japanese culture.</p> <p>Pre-lecture assignment: Read the distributed text of the Tale of the Heike (the chapters titled "The death of Moritoshi" and "The death of Atsumori" from Book Nine, translated by Royall Tyler (2012) The Tale of the Heike, New York, NY: Viking), and find basic information about the battle of Ichi-no-tani described in Book Nine.</p>

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Intercultural Collaborative Learning: Smile Project: Collaborative project with Tohoku Univ. students	Kazuko Suematsu	This workshop is designed to enhance participants' understanding of Japanese culture from the perspective of "warai," which is translated as "smile" or "laugh." Project-based learning as well as intercultural collaborative learning methods, where learners from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds exchange ideas and develop a project together, will be used. The participants are expected to gain new perspectives on the issues related to the project theme.
Exchange with TU Students	@home	Students will interact with Tohoku University students through quizzes and activities about traditional Japanese culture, language, and pop culture.
Introduction to TU Programs	GLC	This session will introduce students to the four Student Exchange Programs offered at the Global Learning Center and to Tohoku University's graduate schools.
Final Presentation and Closing Ceremony	GLC	<p>Using what they learned during the program, students will prepare a PowerPoint presentation in Japanese.</p> <p>The details of the presentation will be announced in the Japanese language classes.</p> <p>At the closing ceremony, there will be a comprehensive review of the program overall. Participants will make closing remarks, and there will be group photos etc.</p>