

WJC COURSE DESCRIPTIONS –SPRING 2027

* This is the list of course descriptions as of February 2026 and it is subject to change.

(春学期) * 全科目必修

JAPANESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSE (JLC) (in Japanese)

JLC 日本文化・博多学入門（一木）

このクラスは私たちが日々生活し、学んでいる福岡/ 博多の代表的な祭りである博多どんたくと博多祇園山笠を中心的な題材としながら、日本の祭りが持つ意味について検討することを目的としている。祭りは長くその地域で継承されてきたものであり、そこには地域の歴史や文化が体現されているということはよく言われている。しかし、祭りの持つ意味とはなんだろうか。なぜそれらは「継承するに値する」と考えられるのだろうか。同時に伝統的な祭りを継承することは、特に現代社会においては簡単なことではない。多くの場合、祭りは現代的な生活リズムや社会構造、社会的価値と相いれない。その中で祭りを守ること、伝統文化を守ることはどういうことだろうか。このクラスでは、そうした問い合わせについて考えていく。その中で受講生は自らの文化の中にある伝統的なものがどのように保持され、継承されているかについて考えてもらいたい。

JLC 食文化研究（チェンチュア）

食は人間の生活の中心です。栄養として、それは私たちの生存に不可欠です。それはまた、人間の長い歴史において主要な役割を果たしており、社会的、文化的、経済的な世界の構造の基本的な要素であります。しかし、食文化を扱う学術的なトピックは少ないです。このコースでは、食品研究の新たな学際的「分野」を紹介し、歴史的および現代的な生活における食の位置づけを紹介します。大規模なパターンと、私たちが日常生活で食べ物を利用または体験するより親密な方法を通して、次のような重要な質問に取り組みます。「食べ物は世界中の歴史にどのような影響を与えたか?」「食はどのように生産されましたか?誰に?」「環境や社会にどんな影響がありますか?」「食べ物はどのように意味とアイデンティティを生み出すことに役立ちますか?」「一部の人は十分な食物を手に入れるのに苦労しますが、他の人は彼らを病気にするほどたくさん食べられるのはなぜですか?」「私たちの食物との関わりのために未来は何を保持していますか?」「今後、食でどのような役割を果たすことができるか、または果たすべきでしょうか?」

JAPANESE CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND SOCIETY COURSE

(in English)

JCCS Topics in Hakata Studies : History and Culture (Ichiki) ※compulsory

This is the sequel to Hakata: History and Culture I, which was held in the previous semester. Once again, this course intends to give students basic knowledge on Fukuoka / Hakata where we spend our daily lives. Students will be exposed to the rich historical / cultural tradition of Fukuoka / Hakata, with particular focus on the periods after 14th century, or the Kamakura period. The role of Hakata as an international trading port became even more active and

significant from the 14th century and on. Students will learn various topics of Hakata history through 「はかたれきししんぶん (Hakata History newspapers)」. In addition to the in-class studies, field studies will play significant role in this class. The students will have precious opportunities to see the historical sites in their own eyes.

JCCS The Cinema of Hirokazu Koreeda: The Changing Japanese Family and Society (Lee)

One of the most prominent contemporary directors to come out of Japan is Hirokazu Koreeda. Many have compared his filmic style to that of Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien and Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu because of his transcendental long takes and slow pacing. However, by looking at his body of work from his early documentaries to recent family dramas, this course will highlight not only his style, but the themes surrounding identity, family, memory, and societal issues. Students will acquire the fundamentals of critical and technical language necessary to discuss and analyze Koreeda's films within the context of the changes in contemporary Japanese society.

JCCS Gender in Modern Japanese History and Society (Hao)

Japanese women's life has undergone a sea change in the past two centuries, but how about their relationship to men? When did housewives become the hallmark of femininity? How did Japanese feminists address the diverse demands within the group of women while approaching myriad forms of gender inequity? This course examines modern Japanese history and society from the late Tokugawa period to recent decades through the lens of gender. It not only traces the historical transformation of the social, cultural, and intellectual life of women, but also examines the evolution of gender relations over time. Throughout this semester, students will develop a familiarity with gender theories through which to critically analyze primary sources and secondary scholarship. Together we will consider how the narratives of women have unfolded, how the notions of femininity and masculinity have been historically constructed, how gender has been represented, and most important, how we have arrived at the present-day historical juncture.

JCCS Reading Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi, Yakumo) (Nagaoka)

This course will offer an introduction to the works of Lafcadio Hearn with focus on his collection of Japanese legends, ghost stories and essays on Japan. Hearn was born to a Greek mother and an Anglo-Irish father on an Ionian Island in the mid-19th century. Throughout his life Hearn lived in several countries including Ireland, England, USA, and Japan, which eventually made Hearn an international and transcultural writer. Each of his writings will be approached, through lectures and discussions, as a reflection of important features of Japanese culture and mentality. In particular, such topics as the visible vs. the invisible, perception and depiction, and family relations will be covered.

JCCS Women in Japanese Art: Representation, Self-Representation and Agency (Yang)

The course examines women's participation in the history of Japanese art, as models, patrons, artists and critics. It offers students opportunities to discover Japanese women artists and to

discuss their artworks, from the 18th century to present, within historical, social, and cultural contexts, in particular, with a focus on their challenges and opportunities in each era. The course aims to provide students the knowledge of Japanese women artists and a perspective of gender in understanding the art, history, culture, and society of Japan. How Japanese women are depicted in the visual culture and how women artists creatively respond to the social milieu will inspire students to think about women's role in the society in relation to their own study goals. In addition to the coursework, the class will take one field trip to an art exhibition in Fukuoka.

JCCS Classic Japanese Cinema in Postwar Japan (Preslar)

This course is focused on Japanese cinema of the 1950s and 1960s. Many of the Japanese films released during this time period reflect the anxieties of a country undergoing rapid cultural and industrial transformation. We will examine the contexts behind such films as Throne of Blood (1957), Tokyo Story (1953), The Bad Sleep Well (1960), and Kuroneko (1968). Although the list of films to be viewed in this class has not been finalized, this course will aim to cover a small variety of films which allow for discussion of a range of topics including violence, guilt, desire, identity, and gender.

JCCS Japan without Japan (Cheng Chua)

Globalization and Japan is usually connected with the oft researched policy of "Cool Japan." Impressions on the policy is that it emphasizes popular culture, particularly anime and manga, as the media that promotes this movement. Studies have primarily focused on the successes of the policy, and slightly, on its failures. This course aims to fill the gap, by shifting the focus from Japan, to its recipients. Furthermore, the course will focus on the "afterlife" of these cultures and how Japan is (re-) imagined in the recipient/consuming countries.

JCCS Hakata History and Tradition through Festivals (Ichiki)

This course intends to expose the students to the world of Japanese festivals. In many ways, Japan is a country of festivals. Numerous festivals in many different outlooks are held in Japan throughout the year. The festivals in Japan are quite significant for the following reasons: Festivals, especially traditional ones, are history and culture lived today. In festivals, we will be able to see the traditional values which otherwise might not be observable. In Hakata, the history of the region first as the gateway to Asia and then one of the city states in medieval Japan is manifested in two of the major festivals in Fukuoka, that is, Hakata Matsubayashi Festival in May and Hakata Gion Yamakasa Festival in July. The students will be given opportunities to closely see the lives of festival participants as well as the making of these festivals (which usually would not be disclosed to outsiders) and explore the history and tradition lived today. More often than not, traditional festivals do not go along with the modern way of life. Thus, many festivals have transformed or even disappeared while many others are preserved to this day with the serious efforts by people of Japan to carry on the tradition. What in these festivals makes them worth preserving? How can they preserve the outdated way of life? By closely analyzing various festivals in this region, students will be expected to find

answers to these questions. In this class, students are expected not only to learn about Japanese festivals in class, but also to observe various festivals through field trips. By doing so, students are expected to find answer to the question, what is history and tradition. While the primary focus of this class will be the festivals in Fukuoka Hakata, other major festivals in Japan will be introduced for references.