

Fall 2015 Courses on Asian and Transcultural Studies

Faculty of Letters/Graduate School of Letters Fall 2015 Courses, offered in English for 3rd and 4th undergraduate and Master's program students (2-credit each)

2015年度10月から開講される学部3・4回生および修士学生向け、文学部・文学研究科専門科目（すべて2単位）の英語講義です

Irina Holca



"Japanese", "Modern", "Literature":

Exploring Japan's Modernity through Literary Discourse

This course will explore developments and trends in modern Japanese literature, society, and culture. We will read and analyze literary (and non-literary) discourse dealing with the encounters between Japan and the world from the beginning of the Meiji period to the present, as well as works illustrating the way modernization redefined human relations, (family, friendship, love, etc) during the same period of time.

M3 Research Bld No.2, Enshuu-shitsu 10

月曜3限 総合研究2号館 第10演習室

Daisuke Kaida



Contemporary Philosophy in Japan:

Shozo OMORI (1921-97) and His Students

You probably know of J-POP, Japanese popular music. Musicians in this genre are more or less influenced by western music, they sing in Japanese, and their works are popular among ordinary people. I say that there is a parallel genre (school) in contemporary philosophy in Japan. It started with Shozo OMORI (1921-97) and was developed by some of his students. Philosophers in this school are more or less influenced by (analytic) western philosophy, they think and write in Japanese, and their works are accessible to and widely read by people outside academic circles. I call this genre "J-PHIL". In the lectures, I will introduce you to some of the notable achievements in J-PHIL, focusing on the works of Shozo OMORI, Shigeki NOYA (1954-), Hitoshi NAGAI (1951-), and others. No previous knowledge is required.

M5 Yoshida International House, South Lec. Room 1

月曜5限 吉田国際交流会館 南講義室1

Masahiro Yamada



Introduction to Japanese (Japonic) Languages

This course will introduce a method to analyze various aspects of Japonic languages (Japanese and Ryukyuan languages). The data mainly dealt with will be taken from the "standard" variant of modern Japanese and Dunan (Yonaguni-Ryukyuan, spoken in Yonaguni island, Okinawa prefecture).

Tu3 Faculty of Letters East Bld. Room 257

火曜3限 文学部東館 257号室

Wako Asato



Cross-border Migration

The purpose of the course is to overview the economy, society, politics, demography and particularly cross-border migration of Asia under the process of regional integration. We will also observe how the regional integration, economic development and demographic change have been driving both labor migration and marriage migration.

Tu4 Faculty of Letters Main Bld. Enshuu-shitsu 3

木曜4限 文学部 第3演習室

Björn-Ole Kamm



Japan at Play:

Nation-Building through Work and Leisure Politics

Nation-building at first glance appears as a matter of politics but it also penetrates deeply into the sphere of play, amusement, and leisure. This course revolves around the question how the Japanese state defined itself through leisure policies such as the introduction of "Western" forms of play during the Meiji period (1868-1912), prewar domestic tourism, the attempts to create a "lifestyle superpower" (seikatsu taikoku) or the recent "Cool Japan" campaign. What is the "Japaneseness" of play (asobi) and its opposites, seriousness and work? By tracing play as a matter of concern for policy makers, intellectuals, and ordinary people, the course further introduces a new theoretical and methodological approach to Cultural Studies that is less concerned with meanings and values but with contested, contingent modes of cultural ordering: narratives about, for example, a given nation's place in the world and their material embodiments, such as written laws or metropolitan redevelopment projects.

Tu5 Faculty of Letters Main Bld. Enshuu-shitsu 4

火曜5限 文学部 第4演習室

Niels van Steenpaal



The History and Culture of Kyoto

This course will introduce the student to the history and culture of Kyoto, the city that functioned as Japan's capital for more than one thousand years. Through class discussion based on (research) literature, primary sources, presentations, field trips, and movie showings, we will come to examine the city in its various aspects; a physical site of distinct geography and climate, a treasure trove of world-renowned architecture and artifacts, an arena for political intrigue and military prowess, the home of millions of people who lived quite ordinary lives, and a cultural representation that continues to inform Japanese identity to this day.

W2 Faculty of Letters Main Bld. Enshuu-shitsu 2

水曜2限 文学部 第2演習室

Björn-Ole Kamm



Japanese Contemporary Popular Culture in a Global Context

Japanese popular media practices play not only in Japan a major role in the everyday lives of many people. The course investigates various elements of this popular and consumer culture, such as manga, games or cosplay, in their historical development and from a global perspective. The main focus lies on theoretical concepts and analytical techniques useful to examine the role of popular culture in late capitalist societies. One area of interest revolves around media content, for example, cultural representations of nationality or gender. A second point of departure is formed by questions of production, reception and appropriation by users in and outside Japan.

W4 Research Bld. Enshuu-shitsu 8

水曜4限 総合研究2号館 第8演習室

Jenifer Coates



Kimio Ito



Gender in Japan

This course offers a comprehensive account of the structures of gender in Japan through its history and culture. Covering key issues in gender studies including discrimination, gendered violence, labour issues and education, the course situates these dynamics in their historical and cultural context using analyses of popular media. The course begins with a general introduction to gender studies, followed by the more specific application of key works and theories to the context of Japan. Thereafter, each lecture will address a singular gender issue in Japan from a historical and cultural perspective.

Th2 Faculty of Letters Main Bld. Enshuu-shitsu 1

木曜2限 文学部 第1演習室

