

Society and Current Affairs: Japan (A002931)

Course size *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

Credits 5.0 **Study time 150 h**

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2026-2027

A (semester 1) English Gent lecture
peer teaching

Lecturers in academic year 2026-2027

Holvoet, Marlies	LW21	staff member
Niehaus, Andreas	LW21	lecturer-in-charge
Spremberg, Felix	LW21	co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2026-2027

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (China Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China (UGent Track))	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)	5	A
Bachelor of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)	5	A
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	5	A
Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context	5	A
Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Elective Set Culture and Society	5	A
Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Society, topical matters, Japan

Position of the course

This advanced course helps students understand the social and institutional structures of modern Japan. The course introduces students to aspects of modern Japanese society and the relevance of pre-modern structures for modern Japanese society. Also, contemporary societal topics such as gender, racism, social inequality, sustainability, and environment are addressed.

The course teaches students how to read, understand and use general literature on Japanese society. The students are expected to work independently and give a presentation in group on a topic that they have chosen.

Contents

The course offers a general overview on social structures of modern Japan. By discussing aspects of modern Japanese society the meaning of pre-modern structures in modern Japan will be analysed. Relevant literature in the field of social studies will be introduced and discussed.

Initial competences

To have successfully completed the course A002930 History of Japan or to have acquired the necessary skills by other means.

Final competences

- 1 To have broad knowledge of pre-modern and modern structures of Japanese society.
- 2 To understand the factors and mechanisms that form the basis of social development in pre-modern and modern Japan.
- 3 To understand the aspects of modern Japanese society and the relevance of pre-modern structures for modern Japanese society.
- 4 To be able to read, understand and use general literature on Japanese society.

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

Conditions for exam contract

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Lecture, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

During the lectures students will gain insight into topical matters of Japanese society.

In microteaching classes students will present a case study to the class and answer questions concerning their topic.

Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: An Introduction to Japanese Society

Indicative price: € 50

Optional: no

Language : English

Author : Yoshio SUGIMOTO

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : intensive

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally

References

Course content-related study coaching

Students receive constant feedback and will be guided in the presentation of their case study.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment, Assignment

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

Extra information on the examination methods

Assessment form

A written exam (60%) with open questions evaluates to what extent the student understands the general structure of Japanese society. It will also be evaluated to what extent the student can analyse and explain social phenomena in modern Japan. Students have to pass the written exam in order to pass the course.

Students have to give a presentation (40%) in front of class.

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical: exam (60%)

Non periodical: presentation (40%)

The student needs to succeed in both parts of the evaluation in order to pass.

Facilities for Working Students

1. Possible exemption from educational activities requiring student attendance.

2. Possible rescheduling of the examination to a different time in the same academic year

3. Alternative time for feedback is possible

For more information concerning flexible learning: contact the monitoring service of the faculty of Arts and philosophy