

# **JS Courses & Descriptions AY2026/2027 Semester 1**



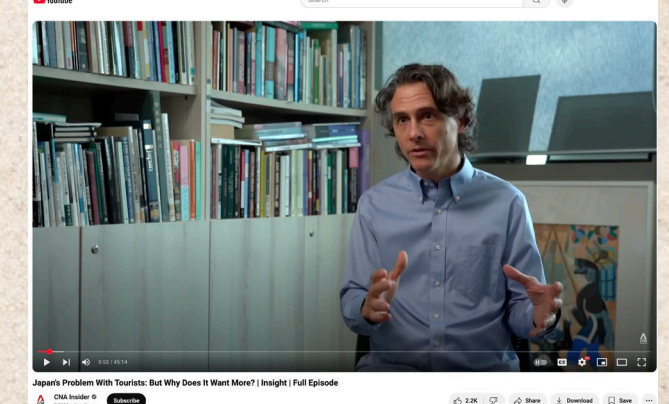
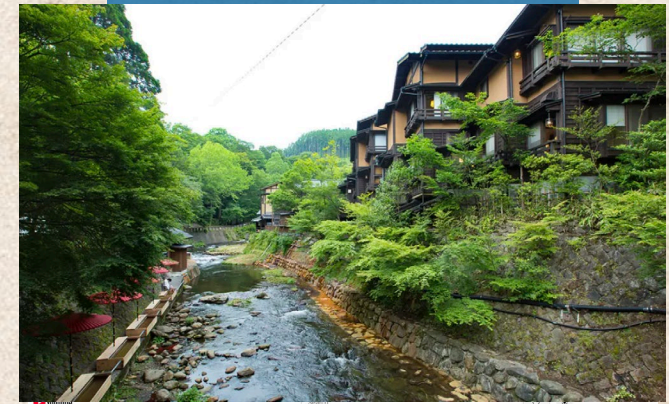


|                  |                                                                       |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JS 1101E</b>  | <b>Introduction to Japan</b>                                          |
| <b>GEC 1005</b>  | <b>Cultural Borrowing: Japan and China</b>                            |
| <b>GEC 1032</b>  | <b>Home</b>                                                           |
| <b>GEC 1039</b>  | <b>International Relations of Asia</b>                                |
| <b>GESS 1013</b> | <b>Singapore and Japan: Historical and Contemporary Relationships</b> |
| <b>JS 2101</b>   | <b>Approaches to Japanese Studies I</b>                               |
| <b>JS 2213</b>   | <b>Visual Analysis of Japanese Popular Culture</b>                    |
| <b>JS 2216</b>   | <b>Postwar Japanese Film and Anime</b>                                |
| <b>JS 2225</b>   | <b>Marketing and Consumer Culture in Japan</b>                        |
| <b>JS 3213</b>   | <b>Alternative Lives in Contemporary Japan</b>                        |
| <b>JS 3222</b>   | <b>Japanese Business Management</b>                                   |
| <b>JS 4225</b>   | <b>Social Dynamics in Modern Japan</b>                                |
| <b>JS 4230</b>   | <b>Advanced Readings in Popular Culture</b>                           |



# JS1101E: Introduction to Japan

- A broad view of Japan's complexity – past, present, and future – through diverse topics:
  - Samurai (class and status)
  - Godzilla (the power of popular culture)
  - Depopulation (rural-urban divides, declining birth rates)
  - Protests (voices driving change)
  - Burial mounds (status impacting the landscape)
  - Poetry (Heian aesthetics into the present)
  - And more
- Monday, 12-2pm, AS5-02-02
- Instructor: Chris McMorran
- If you have ANY interest in a major/minor in Japanese Studies, or even a passing interest in Japan, join me!





# **GEC1005: Cultural Borrowing: Japan and China**

**Instructor: Dr Scot Hislop**

Or more accurately: Dialogic (Bakhtinian) Cultural Borrowing between China and Japan from ancient times to May 4th, 1919 is premised on the following theses:

Cultural dialogue enriches cultures;  
is a creative process;  
which started in the ancient past;  
and will continue into the future.  
Globalization is not new.

After you have taken the course, will you be convinced? Or will you wish to argue for a different set of theses? Both are possible outcomes if you apply yourself.



# GEC1032: Home

- Interdisciplinary course – not about Japan
- Instructor: Chris McMorran
- Tues 2-4pm LT11
- Key: make a podcast for your homework!
- Understand the relevance of “home” beyond your front door. Appreciate the complexity of the places – house, neighborhood, nation, planet – you call home.
- Themes:
  - Sense of place
  - Gender and housework
  - Home and travel
  - Migration
  - Nationalism
  - Homelessness
  - Political exile





GEC1039 / GEH1024

# International Relations of Asia

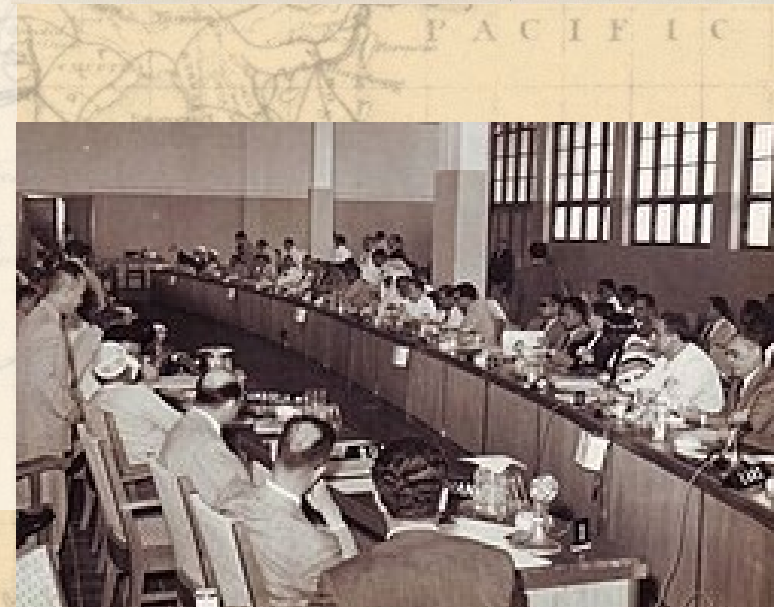
How did Asia become part of world politics,  
and how did Asians reshape the world in return?

Empire and Encounter · War and Decolonization · Asia in Motion

A historical introduction for students from all backgrounds

Semesters 1 & 2, AY2026/27

Akiko Ishii · Japanese Studies





# GESS1013: Singapore and Japan: Historical and Contemporary Relationships

**Instructor: Dr Konrad Kalicki**

This course aims to promote a better understanding of Singapore-Japan relations by combining historical, political, economic, social and cultural perspectives. In addition to examining the history of interactions between people in Singapore and Japan from the late 19th century to the present, the module also helps students grasp issues affecting Singapore's position and perception in a wider geographical and cultural context by considering its relations with Japan.

On successful completion of the course, students should be able to:

- think deeply and ask critical questions about the changing relationships between Singapore and Japan;
- identify, understand and discuss major political, economic, social and cultural issues linking and binding the two countries together;
- place these issues in historical and contemporary contexts, and explore them from multidisciplinary perspectives.



# JS2213

## Visual Analysis of Japanese Popular Culture

AY2026/2027 Semester 1

A/P Deborah Shamoon

- Introduction to visual analysis of popular culture media in postwar Japan
  - Major topics: **film, television, manga, and anime**
  - Film theory and formal analysis
  - no prerequisites
- Key questions:
  - How do form and genre affect content?
  - How do texts address specific audiences such as teenagers, boys or girls?
  - What is the role of fan culture?







# JS2216 Postwar

## Japanese Film



## And Anime



- Explore key themes in Japanese film and anime, from historical memory to magical girl transformation
- Examine major works by Miyazaki Hayao, Kon Satoshi, Shinkai Makoto, and Anno Hideaki
- Learn about youth culture, otaku, media mix, and other cultural phenomena in contemporary Japan



**Semester 1**  
**Mondays**  
**10 AM-12 PM**  
**AS4-0119**

INSTRUCTOR:

**Zhao Xinyi**

**(PhD, Columbia University)**  
**Assistant Professor of East**  
**Asian Film and Media**



Department of Japanese Studies  
Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences





## JS2225 Marketing and Consumer Culture in Japan

Semester 1, AY2026-27,  
Thursdays 12:00-2:00pm,  
LT9

Prof. Nozomi NAOI



Exhibition held in the Mitsukoshi Store, Tokyo. 場列陳會覽展品藝工術美越三



# JS3213: Alternative Lives in Contemporary Japan

**Instructor: Dr Yuen Shu Min**

What does it mean to be “different” in Japan today? How is difference constructed, and what are the consequences of being “different”? This course answers these questions by examining the lives of individuals connected to Japan who through choice and circumstance have come to lead “different”, “alternative” lives—celebrated in some cases, and silenced, ignored or oppressed in other cases. Through the experiences and stories of these individuals/communities, we will gain a deeper understanding of how experiences of oppression, marginalisation and privilege are shaped by historical forces and social processes, as well as the strategies that these individuals, scholars, activists or others have adopted to make visible such oft-ignored or invisible lives. By critically reflecting on, exposing, questioning and challenging the mechanisms of privilege and oppression, we will be better equipped to work towards social justice and positive social change in Japan and beyond.



# JS3222: Japanese Business Management

**Instructor: A/P Thang Leng Leng**

This course examines Japanese business management systems, including cultural foundations, organizational structures, HR practices, and decision-making processes. It integrates classical theories with contemporary developments in global contexts to provide a comprehensive understanding of Japanese business management. Students will visit Japanese businesses for their project work and there will also have opportunities for conversations with guest speakers from Japanese corporations in class.

In this course, students will learn to

- Explain key Japanese management theories
- Analyse corporate structures in Japan and Singapore
- Evaluate and compare HR systems of Japanese corporations in Japan and Singapore
- Interpret workplace norms and unwritten rules
- Critically assess management systems in today's context



# JS4225: Social Dynamics in Modern Japan

**Instructor: A/P Thang Leng Leng**

This course explores the complexities of Japanese society through themes including identity, family, work, gender, aging, poverty, citizenship and transnational mobility. Students will critically engage with ethnographic studies, sociological analyses, and contemporary debates to understand how Japan negotiates tradition and modernity in a global context. The course emphasizes active engagement where students will participate in seminar discussions, engage with Japan/Japanese through field visits and interviews, and undertake reflective and research-based assignments. By connecting Japan's social dynamics to broader comparative questions, the course equips students with the analytical tools to critically assess how societies respond to issues of identity, belonging, and transformation in the modern world



# JS4230 Advanced Readings in Popular Culture

AY 26/27 sem 1

Prof Deborah Shamoon

Wednesdays 1200-1500 AS3 03-05  
fulfils requirement for JS major/minor,  
Sociology major, Global Studies major,  
Cultural Studies minor

topics include:

Cool Japan  
kawaii  
pop music  
video games  
fashion  
otaku  
shōjo

