

J-PAC Course list and course descriptions 2024-2025

No.	年 Year	学期 Semester	ターム Term	課程 Level	開講部局 Faculty/College	授業コード Class Code	授業科目名	Course Title	担当教員 Teacher	言語 Language	単位 Credit	Course Description
1	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N854001	気候変動とその対応策 1 (JS)	Climate Change Leadership –Behavior Change and Culture 1 (JS)	BAI Yingjiu	英語English	1	This course introduces basic concepts of climate change science, including the causes, environmental and societal impacts, as well as mitigation and adaptation strategies and their implementation. The first half of the course will focus on the fundamentals of climate change science. In the second half, the focus will shift to global climate change impacts and proposed solutions. In the last several weeks, we will examine technological solutions and policy options under the Paris Agreement with an emphasis on sustainable development challenges.
2	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N855001	気候変動とその対応策2 (JS)	Climate Change Leadership –Behavior Change and Culture 2 (JS)	BAI Yingjiu	英語English	1	The Paris Agreement fundamentally realigned the structures of international climate policy. This course provides up-to-date knowledge on climate change policies under the Paris Agreement, with a focus on the topics of healthy energy systems, the sustainable communities, and inclusive economic growth. We will explore current policy settings toward the implementation of the Paris Agreement through case studies, such as 2050 Net-Zero emissions target. Students will be asked to critically analyze the latest proposed solutions to climate change and their potential capacities and limitations (or risks). That will help explain how governments at the international, national, and regional levels are addressing – or not addressing – the extraordinary challenge of climate change.
3	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N856001	都市生活と環境 1 (JS)	Mitigating Urban Islands and Motivating Citizen Actions 1 (JS)	BAI Yingjiu	英語English	1	Urban areas are usually warmer than their rural surroundings, a phenomenon known as the “heat island effect.” Urban heat islands (UHIs) can affect communities by increasing summertime peak energy demand, air pollution, heat-related illness and mortality, and water quality. This course aims to develop critical knowledge and understanding of the complexity of urban, urban heat island (UHI) mitigation, and sustainable urban development. This course provides a broad overview of the UHI effects and UHI mitigation strategies in mega-cities around the world. The course explores how UHIs form and how communities can reduce the UHI effects, with a focus on understanding urban development processes and principles. Students will learn sustainable urban management and current practices of urban sustainability, including appreciating and respecting the diversity of views and values that influence sustainable development.
4	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N857001	都市生活と環境 2 (JS)	Mitigating Urban Islands and Motivating Citizen Actions 2 (JS)	BAI Yingjiu	英語English	1	This course aims to develop a critical understanding of urban sustainability during and post COVID19 and the nature-based solution for UHI mitigation that can provide multiple functions and benefits. This course contains three parts. Firstly, the course provides comprehensive case studies of nature-based solutions for UHI mitigation and sustainable urban management. Topics will cover green roofs and solar roofs; Instagram and food loss/waste, and heat wave and urban redevelopment (management). Secondly, the course focuses on key knowledge areas of sustainability measurement, including environmental, social, and economic dimensions. Lastly, we will examine how a city’s sustainability has changed over time, which can help urban communities understand how to become healthy, habitable, resilient, and sustainable during and post COVID-19.
5	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N906001	グローバルな視点から見た日本の経済 (JS)	Japanese Economy in Global Perspective (JS)	TSAI MON-HAN	英語English	1	This course introduce modern Japanese economy from a global and historical perspective.
6	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N907001	比較的な視点から見た日本の企業 (JS)	Japanese Business in Comparative Perspective (JS)	TSAI MON-HAN	英語English	1	This course introduce modern Japanese business from a comparative and theoretical perspective.
7	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N894001	逸脱とタブー (JS)	Deviance and Taboo (JS)	GAITANIDIS IOANNIS	英語English	2	In this course, we will peer into areas of Japanese society that often form the subject of taboo or embarrassment in daily conversations. Love hotels, organized crime, prostitution, conspiracy theories, or beliefs considered “superstitious,” we will explore several examples of the forbidden, marginalized and ignored aspects of today’s Japan and will delve into comparisons with the way these subjects are dealt with in other countries. And since every time something is forbidden, something else is allowed, this course opens also a window on manners and rules regulating everyday life and how these are shaped by sociohistorical and cultural factors.
8	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011530501	総合科学としての火山学	Volcanoes: a Holistic and Multi-disciplinary Study	YOSHIDA Shuji	英語English	1	This course provides volcanic geology fundamentals, armed with case studies of historical eruptions overseas, such as those of Vesuvius (Italy) and Mt. St. Helens (USA). In addition to the basics of volcanology such as volcano-forming rocks and minerals, this course discusses how scientists and the relevant government agencies predict volcanic eruptions and other volcano-related disasters and how they mitigate the subsequent hazards, using the textbook and the materials from the USGS (United States Geological Survey) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency).
9	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011320401	環境変動と自然災害	Confronting Climate Change and Natural Hazards	YOSHIDA Shuji	英語English	1	This course explores the mechanisms of climate changes since the emergence of human about 2.6 million years ago, focusing on the cause (both natural and human-induced events or activities) and the effect of ongoing global warming, including natural disasters which have been increasing in frequency and magnitude in recent years worldwide. To better understand this issue, we study the climate change in a hierarchy of time scales ranging from tens of years to 100,000s years of cyclicity. Next, we discuss the cause and effect on each cyclicity or episodicity with a multi-disciplinary approach: from the viewpoints of not only natural sciences such as geology, biology, and physics, but also sociology, psychology, politics, international relationships, and other political/cultural sciences. For case studies of both climate-related environmental changes and natural disasters, we use a wide range of examples from all over the world.
10	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011203201	科学的思考法 II	Scientific Thinking II	YOSHIDA Shuji	英語English	1	In this course, students discuss various topics on brain health using logical- and critical-thinking skills. Before each class, every student is expected to study the basics of brain science using a popular textbook written for science communication with the general public, do homework on the content of each chapter, and prepare for group discussion before attending each flipped-teaching class in person in the classroom (Room G8-103, G8 Building, Nishichiba campus). Each student gives a short solo presentation or speech (without PowerPoint or similar presentation software) on different topics on brain health (at least two talks per student in the entire course). Visual aids are limited to the images (jpeg) identical to the figures or tables in his/her handout. In the class, students exchange their ideas to compare their opinions more objectively and get feedback from others to reinforce their critical-thinking skills.
11	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N935001	社会運動から見た日本と世界 (JS)	Japan and the World as Viewed from Social Movements (JS)	TAO BO	英語English	1	Social movements are important driving forces behind societal change. This course will explore movements from the past and present that have attempted to transform social values or norms, establish collective identities, change laws, and challenge the status quo. Topics covered include the Freedom and Popular Rights movement, women’s movement, Communist International movement, Civil Rights movement, Sanrizuka struggle, Asian American movement, and Black Lives Matter. Through such cases, we will examine the process of social change in Japan and the world from a global context.

12	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011420801	文化と言語	Culture and Language	NOMURA Kazuyuki	英語English	1	Culture and language are intricately intertwined, but these two topics tend to be separately studied in two disciplines: anthropology and linguistics. And yet, the interface between language and culture (linguistic anthropology) provides a viable outlook to understand how language reflects cultural norms, and conversely, how culture reflects linguistic forms. Among various human languages, Japanese is undoubtedly most relevant to students. This course thus explores how Japanese culture feeds into the Japanese language. Specifically, everyday communication patterns observed among Japanese-speaking people are examined in terms of linguistic anthropological concepts. This course is designed for students who wish to enhance their knowledge of Japanese culture and/or the Japanese language from comparative perspectives.
13	2025	SS	T1	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N920001	現代日本政治論－戦後レジームからの脱却	Japanese Politics Today –Beyond the Postwar Regime? (JS)	TSAI MON-HAN	英語English	1	This course is intended to introduce to students to major political developments and issues since the end of the Cold War coincided with the bursting of Japan's Bubble Economy. This period is also mostly coterminous with the the reign of Heisei. To grasp political changes in Japan since the end of the Cold War, it is vital to know what constitutes the so-called the postwar (political) regime between 1955 and 1989, and it will help students to understand what the former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo means by 'getting out of the postwar regime' and will be in a position to assess the continuities, innovations and rupture between the two periods.
14	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N442001	日本の事例を通して学ぶサステナビリティ学	Introduction to Sustainability: Case-studies from Japan (JS)	BAI Yingjiu	英語English	1	This course introduces the core concepts and the academic approach of sustainability, with a focus on the basic sustainability theory and its role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first half of this course provides students with an understanding of definitions of sustainability and sustainable development that harnesses the central components of sustainability. In the second half, the focus shifts to the SDGs and achieving the SDGs through integrated solutions. Students will explore three of the most pressing challenges undergirding the SDGs including climate change, poverty and inequality, and ecosystem degradation. In the last several weeks, students will learn how to measure sustainability and "Circle of Sustainability" through case studies. Discussions will include the trade-offs, co-benefits and synergies between sustainability and development.
15	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N923001	多言語コミュニケーション (JS)	Multilingualism and Translanguaging (JS)	NOMURA Kazuyuki	英語English	1	Communication across multiple languages and cultures is no longer uncommon in today's globalised world. Drawing on findings in linguistic anthropology and sociolinguistics, this course focuses on multilingualism and translanguaging among users of Japanese in Japan and other contexts. We explore sociocultural roles that translanguaging assumes in micro-level multilingual interactions and interrelations between translanguaging and macro-level multilingual societies. Monolingual ideologies will also be examined. This course is a Japanese Studies subject and the medium of instruction is English.
16	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011203101	科学的思考法 I	Scientific Thinking I	YOSHIDA Shuji	英語English	1	In this advanced course taught in English, students discuss on various topics on Scientific Thinking in everyday life, media, and popular science using logical- and critical-thinking skills. Before each class, every student is expected to (1) review the basics of logic using the course materials (see below), (2) do homework related to logic, critical-thinking skills, and illogical thought (e.g., bias), and (3) prepare for online group discussion and/or a solo presentation before attending each class. In the class, students will exchange their ideas through the online discussion and presentations. Subsequently, each student will compare opinions more objectively, and get feedback from others to reinforce their logical-, critical-, and scientific-thinking abilities.
17	2025	SS	T1	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011310501	地球史と地球誌	Geological History of Earth and the Record in Strata	YOSHIDA Shuji	英語English	1	This course studies how Earth's environments (including atmospheric/oceanic compositions, climate, life forms, hence the evolution and extinction of different species) changed since its birth about 4.6-billion-years ago, such as evolutions. We will also learn how these geological events have been recorded in strata (e.g., layers of rocks and sediments), and how to extract and read the information. Next, we will discuss how these events are related to our lives today and in the future. These topics include natural-forcing (vs. human-induced) factors that control natural disasters, climate change (including the ongoing global warming), and the economic growth of the industry.
18	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	国際教養Liberal Arts and Sciences	Z011312201	資源論	Natural Resources	YOSHIDA Shuji	英語English	1	This course discusses natural resources that originate from Earth's geological processes, such as minerals (e.g., iron, gold), groundwater, and fossil fuels. With ongoing global warming, the public and the global community appear to be focusing on eliminating CO2 emission. Nonetheless, hydrocarbons (oil, natural gas, and coal) are still the dominant energy source worldwide today, and we heavily rely on them without adequately shifting to alternative energy sources. Even if we succeed in replacing all fossil fuels with clean energy sources, we are still not able to reduce the use of petroleum drastically, as we need it as a raw material for medicines, fibers, and other petrochemical products. We will discuss the solution to these problems from an individual level to a corporate/ government level, including their responsibilities.
19	2024	FS	T4	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N881001	日本のポップカルチャー(JS)A	Japanese Pop culture A	Lisander Martinez	英語English + 日本語Japanese	1	In the last couple of decades, Japanese popular culture has attracted unprecedented notice around the world. Japanese manga and anime, of course, but attention is also being paid to television dramas, J-pop music, novels and films. Yet, we often fail to consider the politics behind this cultural shift and the complexity of what we mean by "Japanese popular culture." This course invites you to examine how the current Japan boom came about and how cultural exports are transforming domestic creative industries. This course will peer behind the scenes of specific popular culture sectors in Japan, in order to break down the so-called "Cool Japan" phenomenon into its constituent parts. Students will be invited to contribute through their own knowledge and perspectives into the re-examination of what we mean by "Japanese popular culture" today.
20	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N882001	日本のポップカルチャー(JS)B	Japanese Pop culture B	Lisander Martinez	英語English + 日本語Japanese	1	This class invites students to perform "close readings" of contemporary Japanese popular culture "texts," including hit films, songs, short stories, and even cat memes. While examining patterns that emerge within popular culture's repository of themes and narratives, we will consider what young creatives and production companies aim to communicate to audiences. We will also pay close attention to historical and socio-political contexts behind cultural production. Students are invited to contribute through their own knowledge and perspectives into this critical look at key "texts" of Japanese popular culture.
21	2025	SS	T1	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N402001	デザイン科学1	Design Science 1	ONO Kenta	英語English + 日本語Japanese	1	In this course, researchers from various fields of design will give introductory explanations on design as an action, designed objects and things, and design research from their respective perspectives.
22	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N403001	デザイン科学2	Design Science 2	ONO Kenta	英語English + 日本語Japanese	1	In this course, researchers from various fields of design will give introductory explanations on design as an action, designed objects and things, and design research from their respective perspectives.

23	2025	SS	T1	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N847001	宗教と社会 (JS)	Religion & Society (JS)	GAITANIDIS IOANNIS	英語English + 日本語Japanese	2	This course deals with some fundamental subjects of debate about the relation between religion and society, taking contemporary Japan as a case study. With a constitution containing one of the strictest separations between religion and politics, with the increasing visibility of faith-related volunteer groups offering social support after 3.11, and with a contemporary history marked by the 1995 Aum affair, Japan offers the chance to peer into the innermost workings of religion in post-industrial societies and, more specifically, into religion's relations with politics, social engagement and violence. You will find no definite answers in this course, but you will undoubtedly leave every week with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to understand and build your own arguments.
24	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N851001	アメリカ映画における日本 (JS)	Japan in American Films (JS)	KOBAYASHI Satoko	英語English + 日本語Japanese	2	In this course, students are introduced to issues of "Japanese" and other "Asian" representations in films and other media in the US. Especially, the class focuses on racialized representations in Hollywood films, drama and cartoons including Disney from 1920s to present. Throughout the semester, students will learn critical perspectives to understand how being embedded and exposed to popular culture impact our "reality" and how these understandings become commodified, distributed and consumed in Japan as well as in the world. Along with lectures and discussions, students will collaboratively engage in film making to help them understand "foreigner" representation in Japan.
41	2024	FS	T5	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N813001	異文化交流演習(JS)	Japanese Culture from Interactural Perspectived	NISHIZUMI Kanako	英語English + 日本語Japanese	2	In this course, Japanese and international students work together and deepen their understanding and awareness of Japanese culture and tradition. This is the course where both Japanese and English are used so that we all think together what is important to promote mutual understanding in a bilingual/multilingual environment.
44	2025	SS	T2	Undergraduate	普遍教育General Education	G15N945001	生物多様性と日本 (JS)	Biodiversity and Japan (JS)	NITTA JOEL HAMILTON	英語English	1	Species are currently being lost from the earth due to human activities at an unprecedented rate. Aside from its intrinsic value, the loss of biodiversity threatens the very existence of humankind. However, in order to protect biodiversity from destruction, we first must understand how it is generated and distributed. In this course, we will learn the fundamentals of biodiversity science by focusing on Japan in a global context. We will learn how to define and measure biodiversity, explore the distribution of biodiversity in Japan and globally, and discuss the most effective ways to conserve biodiversity.