



Spring semester, 2026

Directed Readings: Topics in Japan Studies I

Instructor: SCHERER Quintana

- An all-English seminar focused on the 8 Japan Studies fields covered in the Department of Cross-Cultural Studies' International Japan Studies Course: language, history, society, literature, religious studies, art history, visual media, and contemporary culture.
- Meeting time: Thursdays, 3rd period (13:30~15:10)
- Designed for native-level and near-native-level speakers of English who would welcome a course that allows them to take part freely in academic discussions on Japan-related topics.

In their Japanese-language classes at KU, some exchange students may feel restrained by their language comprehension ability; in their English-language lecture classes (which have been designed for native speakers of Japanese learning English) they may find the pace slower and the discussions more subdued than they desire. This seminar is intended to provide students with strong English skills a chance to gain a greater understanding of Japan-related topics through more in-depth readings and lively discussions.

Course content:

- After consulting student interests, a reading list will be decided for the semester. The topics of the class is thus tailored to the interests of the students in each seminar.
- For each class meeting, students will prepare for discussions of one reading related to Japan Studies.
- Class discussions will focus on the way Japan is approached and understood globally.
- Students will be asked to lead discussions related to topics they focus upon.
- Students will submit a research paper related to their chosen topic at the end of the semester.

Past topics include Japanese history, video games, contemporary films, contemporary art, ukiyo-e prints.

To register:

You will need to register for the Department of Cross-Cultural Studies course "Directed Readings" taught by SCHERER Quintana (シェラー・クインタナ) on Thursdays during 3rd period. If you have questions, please email the professor at ft102161ew@jindai.jp.

Registration limit:

The number of participants will be limited to 15. Students for whom Spring semester will be their final, or their only semester visiting KU will receive priority. Students who will continue studying at KU during Fall 2026 semester will have an opportunity to register for "Directed Readings: Topics in Japan Studies II."

