UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

# COURSE SYLLABUS

## Institutions of Japanese Culture

**2324-1-E2001R040**

### Course title

**JAPANESE CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS**

### Topics and course structure

The course is an introduction to the study of Japanese history and culture: a wide-ranging panoramic view starting from the earliest evidence about the origin of people and culture to the entry of Japan into the international framework in modern and contemporary times.

### Objectives

This course aims to provide students with a solid base of knowledge regarding issues of the historical and cultural nature of Japan. Students will be able to effectively synthesize the acquired knowledge by enhancing the specificities of Japanese culture and integrating it with the knowledge acquired in other disciplines.

### Methodologies

Frontal lectures supported by audio-visual aids.

## Online and offline teaching materials

Power points of the lectures (upon request), bibliographical indications to deepen some topics covered during the course.

## Programme and references

- The ancient age: the origins of the Japanese people and culture/formation of a unitary state/cultural influxes from the Asian continent and "autochthonous" evolution
- The "feudal age" (12th-16th centuries A.D.): the Kamakura shogunate and the Ashikaga hegemony/early contacts with the West/ pacification and unification of the "country at war".
- The Edo period (17th-19th centuries AD): introduction of the Bakuhan system/Confucian philosophy and ethics/urban spaces and popular culture
- The Meiji period (1868-1912): the Meiji Restoration and the formation of the modern nation state/westernization or modernization.
- Synopsis of 20th century Japan.

**Basic reference text:**

- Paul Varley, Introduction to Japanese Culture, ed. Lindau, Turin, 2021.

**A text of choice:**

- Tosolini Tiziano, *Shintoismo*, EMI editrice, Buri (VR), 2015
- Wert Michael, *Samurai. Una breve storia*, il Saggiatore, Milano, 2020
- Marino Susanna e Vecchia Stefano, *Da Hiroshima a Fukushima. Il Giappone e l'incubo del nucleare*, ed. Stilnovo. 2020
- Aldovini Laura, Paolo Linetti e Weber Thomas, *Hokusai, Hiroshige, Utamaro. Capolavori dell'arte giapponese*, Skira, Milano, 2019
- Marino Susanna e Vecchia Stefano, *Ainu. Un popolo alla ricerca dell'identità negata*, inriga edizioni, Bologna, 2023
- Miyake Toshio, *Mostri del Giappone. Narrative, figure, egemonie della dislocazione identitaria*, Ed. Ca' Foscari, Venezia, 2014
- (a cura di) Gala Maria Follaco, Cultura letteraria giapponese, Hoepli, Milano, 2023
- Novielli Roberta, Storia del cinema giapponese, Marsilio, Venezia, 2001

## Assessment methods

**Assessment methods

**Written and oral test:**
*Written test* consists of a series of closed and open questions on the text *Introduzione alla cultura giapponese*. Once passed the written part, student will gain access to the oral part: an interview relating one text from those indicated in the bibliography.

**The same assessment method also applies to students who choose the program a.y. 2022-2023.**

## Office hours

on request by email:

susanna.marino@unimib.it

## Programme validity

two academic years

## Course tutors and assistants

## Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION