UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Institutions of Japanese Culture

2425-1-E2001R040

Course title

Istituzioni di Cultura Giapponese

Topics and course structure

The course is concieved as an introduction to the study of Japanese history and civilisation: a wide-ranging overview starting from the earliest evidence about the origins of the people and their culture, to the occurence of Japan into the international framework in modern times (mentions to contemporary period). Focuses on some topical moments of the cultural-historical evolution of Japan, aimed to highlight contacts with ‘other’ cultures.

Objectives

The course aims to provide students with a basic knowledge about historical and cultural issues relating to Japan. Students will be able to effectively synthesise the acquired knowledge by emphasising the specificities of Japanese culture and integrating it with knowledge related to monographic topics (see text of choice) or possibly acquired skills in other disciplines.

Methodologies

Lectures with audio-visual aids and focus on some topics related to the current reality.

All lectures are conducted in face-to-face delivery mode:

- 21 '2-hour lectures' delivered in face-to-face delivery mode.

Online and offline teaching materials

Thanks to *e-learning course page* , several links about reading/video materials are uploaded from time to time to deepen the topics covered during the lecture.

Programme and references

PROGRAMME

- 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**
  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/**peculiarity of sakoku**
- The Meiji period (1868-1912): the Meiji Restoration and the formation of the nation-state modernisation/**westernisation or modernisation**?
- Brief synopsis 20th century.
  REFERENCES
  Paul Varley, Introduzione alla cultura giapponese, ed. Lindau, Torino, 2020

Un testo a scelta tra:

- Tosolini Tiziano, Shintoismo, EMI editrice, Buri (VR), 2015
- (a cura di) Follaco Gala Maria, Cultura letteraria giapponese, Hoepli, Milano, 2023
- Tollini Aldo, L'ideale della via. Samurai, monaci e poeti nel Giappone medievale, Einaudi editore, Torino, 2017
- Ricca L., La tradizione estetica giapponese. Sulla natura della bellezza, Roma, Carocci, 2015
- Aldovini Laura, Paolo Linetti e Weber Thomas, Hokusai, Hiroshige, Utamaro. Capolavori dell'arte giapponese, Skira, Milano, 2019
- Marino Susanna e Vecchia Stefano, Da Hiroshima a Fukushima. Il Giappone e l'incubo del nucleare, ed. Stilnovo. 2020
- 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
- Novielli Roberta, Storia del cinema giapponese, Marsilio, Venezia, 2001

Assessment methods

*__Type of test__

Written and oral test
The written test consists of a series of closed and open questions on the topics included in the text ‘Introduction to Japanese Culture’.
Those who pass the written part will be admitted to the oral test, where they will be interviewed on the text chosen from the bibliography.
Registration in both written and oral examinations is required; the test must be taken in the same session.
*__Evaluation criteria__
The written test will be marked from 0 to 20 points. Those who acquire at least 12 points in the written examination will be able to take the oral examination.
The points acquired in written examination will then be added to those of the oral part from 0 to 10 points to obtain a final evaluation.

Office hours

By appointment, contacting the lecturer by e-mail:
susanna.marino@unimib.it

Programme validity

The programmes run for two academic years.

Course tutors and assistants

Sustainable Development Goals

QUALITY EDUCATION