



**School of Global Studies and Collaboration  
Aoyama Gakuin University**

**Course Descriptions for  
GSC Courses offered in English  
2025 Spring ~ Fall**

Academic Affairs Division, Sagamihara Campus  
School of Global Studies and Collaboration  
Aoyama Gakuin University

**Last updated : January 2025**

### GSC Courses

GSC takes an interdisciplinary curricular approach through four clusters (Media/Spatial Information, Sociology, Collaboration, and Business) based on the broad field of the social sciences. Experienced practitioners teach students so they can integrate theories into professional practice for solving today’s social problems and improve the global community through project-based learning activities. The following list shows examples of the courses taught in English.

(Courses are subject to change.)

Title	Description	Semester
Practical English Workshop I	Leadership is one of the key components of universally recognized management skill. With the globalization of business, it is not uncommon to manage teams with different cultural backgrounds. From now on, leadership skills will be required not only for managers but also for managers of excellent projects and organizations. How can you be a good leader? How do you develop your own abilities to become a leader? Through methodological lectures and workshops, this course will experience and learn the skills to take on the role of team leader in any organization.	Spring
Sociology of Gender	This course explores critically concepts and theories of gender and sexuality in order to understand how gender norms, roles, and practices are shaped through social structures, institutions, and power relations. Theoretical frameworks to explain the gender system will be reviewed. Subsequently, group works will be organized with a variety of case studies around the world, additionally, student-led discussions about the relationship between gender and main sociological themes such as family, education, health, work, violence, nation, etc. will be opened. This course will enhance students to learn that what is considered natural or universal for femininities/masculinities is in fact defined by socio-cultural factors including race, ethnicity, class, religion, etc.	Spring
Cross-National Comparison	This course seeks to enhance students’ understanding of each nation’s domestic systems and foreign relations through comparative perspectives. The course starts with the study of each nation’s domestic political, economic, and social systems and then examines the influence of international society on each nation’s domestic systems and foreign relations. In this process, the course mainly deals with the issues of security, economy, and human rights. The course also teaches comparative research methods.	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
International Cultural Relations	<p>The course aims to provide students with a basic understanding of the issue surrounding culture as dealt with in international relations, and to re-examine international relations from a cultural perspective. By understanding the historical background of the relationship between nations and cultures from imperialism, decolonization, to globalization, students will gain a deeper understanding of the issues in contemporary international society. Students will be able to understand how international relations and culture relate and influence each other by learning through specific assignments how the different cultures of different ethnic groups and societies relate to each other.</p>	Spring
Corporate Social Responsibility	<p>Companies operate based on their stakeholders' trust and support. If they underestimate their interests and expectations, they would lose their 'license to operate'. This course aims to provide students with a sound knowledge and research framework of corporate social responsibility (CSR) with case studies of global companies, covering the companies' relationships with a wide range of stakeholders such as customers/clients, employees, business partners (supplier, contractors, and agents), communities, environment, shareholders and regulators. This course also provides students good opportunities to practice company research and do presentations on research results in English.</p>	Spring
Tourism in Asia	<p>The year 2020 ended with historic changes in international travel and tourism, bringing with it significant challenges to destinations, industries, and travelers. With our changing social fabric, communities reassert a central role where human relations take the forefront, creating novel and successful ways to sustain livelihoods.</p> <p>Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are more than ever important core elements for all destinations today so that tourism can contribute to communities as a crossroad of positive impact for both travelers and local residents.</p> <p>This course will share current tourism trends and insightful case studies of Asian destinations, including how Japan can cope with challenges to build better experiences through tourism. In each session, students will acquire basic marketing knowledge and demonstrate an understanding in tourism destination marketing.</p>	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Tourism Management	<p>This course introduces students to the fundamental concepts of tourism, with stress on the dynamic benefits tourism development brings to the communities. This study on tourism begins from understanding the four basic elements that create the tourist movement; namely i) tourism destination, ii) tourism information, iii) tourism transport, and iv) the tourist. Tourism management is an act of optimizing the distribution of these elements to maximize the impact of tourism to the community. Many tourist destinations will be used to illustrate the condition of international and domestic tourism development cases.</p>	Spring
Special Lecture M (III)	<p>“Cultural Resources (Studies)” is a new term, started to be used around 2000 in Japan. The reason to need new term instead of “Cultural properties (studies)” is to extend areas of study from only treasured historical goods to “forms” (for example, human body) or sounds, common things, popular cultures and so on. This course focuses on the social evaluation of manga and the accumulation of manga as the background of creativity. We will cover the relation between historical literatures and Mangas. Later, the accumulation of amateur contents like “Comic Market” also will be mentioned.</p>	Spring
News Writing	<p>This course will focus on writing news articles in English. It will be strongly connected to journalism, but the process of gathering factual information, analyze them, comprehend, and write about them is fundamentally the same as academism. So the course will be helpful in upgrading skills in writing social science essays in English too.</p>	Spring
Global Media and Communications	<p>This course explores how media messages are created, interpreted, and disseminated in an interconnected world. Using the principles of semiotics, students will analyze how visual messages convey meaning across various media forms.</p> <p>The course introduces fundamental communication concepts, equipping students with tools to critically evaluate media and understand its role in shaping perceptions.</p> <p>Through discussions, analyses, and projects, students will develop a comprehensive understanding of media’s impact on contemporary society.</p>	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
Practical Essay Writing I	<p>This course is designed to develop students' ability to write clear, structured, and effective essays and documents, covering both academic essays and practical writing, such as e-mails and business proposals.</p> <p>Students will learn to organize ideas logically, construct persuasive arguments, and adapt their writing for diverse audiences and purposes.</p> <p>Incorporating AI tools into the learning process, the course offers opportunities to improve writing skills and practice critical evaluation of AI-generated content.</p> <p>By the end of the course, students will gain confidence in writing essays and practical documents.</p>	Fall
Practical Essay Writing II	<p>The course aims to provide students with the skills necessary to write effective social science essays in English. Students will develop their abilities through studying key topics such as argumentation, transitions, and citation methods. By examining examples and undertaking their own projects, they will become able to produce more rigorous and convincing papers.</p>	Fall
Practical English Workshop II	<p>This course is designed for students to develop specific practical English skills and knowledge. It will focus on global issues in today's society and aims to help students understand these issues and be able to express their own ideas and thought in English through practicing readings, discussions and presentations. Specifically, we will be dealing with global topics such as globalization, cultural friction, food, and the environment.</p>	Fall
Global Opinion Trend	<p>Through this course, we will take a deep look into the key factors of current global issues. For example, polarization within various states which is a phenomenon that undermines democracy, political diversity, national security, international relations in East Asia. After covering these issues and trends, students will form groups and research on specific areas or subjects. Based on those researches and discussions, they will deliver a presentation.</p>	Fall

Title	Description	Semester
Interculturalism	<p>This course introduces students to intercultural studies, considering how cultures interact with one another. The course employs a historical perspective to consider in what ways cultures have influenced each other, as well as the roots of cultural conflict past and present. Students will become familiar with the various components of intercultural exchange – language, technology, religion, art, and so forth – as well as the theories and methods to make sense of them.</p>	Fall
International Business and Strategic Management	<p>International business has dramatically been changed by the digital transformation. INTERNET broke the existing national border and also up-to-date technology like brock chain broke the country currency. This course introduce the new international business trend and required capability for creating the new international business. In this course you can learn not only future business strategy but also great methodology laid by Great predecessors.</p>	Fall
Infrastructure for Asian Connectivity	<p>With the increasing globalization of economic activity, the private sector has been developing strategic and efficient world-wide logistic networks that integrate product sourcing, production, and distribution. The global logistics serving for the corresponding global value-added chain or supply chain management is becoming a key to strengthen international competitiveness in the world market.</p> <p>Government individually develops and implements transport policies to promote its own economic development and enhance national competitiveness. It is also noted that there are many collective efforts among governments in a region to strategically formulate the regional transport connectivity within the context of the regional development.</p> <p>The aim of the course is to provide students with a general overview of the opportunities and challenges of transport and logistics in Asian region from the perspectives of various stakeholders including consumers, producers, shippers, logistic service providers, investors in transport infrastructure, and governments.</p>	Fall

Title	Description	Semester
Hospitality Management	<p>This course is designed to provide students with an understanding of hospitality, hospitality management and hospitality industry from both local and global perspectives.</p> <p>It also provides an overview of organizational behavior in the hospitality industry with an emphasis on management philosophy, policy formulation, communication, motivation and organizational change.</p> <p>Student will be expected to discuss the effect of hospitality on their own country, and how hospitality can have strategic developmental function.</p> <p>This course will help students to acquire a holistic understanding the hospitality, including the tourism and hospitality industry and develop their general intellectual capacities for daily life, such as communication skills, interpersonal skills and problem solving skills and so on.</p>	Fall
Approaches to International Cooperation	<p>This course aims to provide students with the practical knowledge for designing and managing international cooperation projects including development projects and humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>In the first several classes, students will obtain the basic knowledge about the history, the regime transition of international cooperation and various types of assistance contrived. The course will also cover the basic methods of designing projects and factors to be considered such as significance of local initiatives and participation of beneficiaries.</p> <p>Based on the knowledge that students have obtained in the first several classes, students will actually design international cooperation projects under certain simulated situations and implement such projects. Specific types of assumed projects are (i) rural development including projects for water supply, primary education, and other basic human needs (ii) humanitarian assistance for natural disaster and conflict affected people.</p>	1st half of Fall
Special Lecture B (II)	<p>The aim of this course is to examine U.S. security, political, and economic policies toward Asian countries in particular. By using some major international relations theories, the course looks at how U.S. foreign policy and America's behavior have changed in the post-Cold War era.</p>	2nd half of Fall

## Japan Studies Courses

GSC's Japan Studies Program offers unique opportunities for international students to be immersed in the multi-facets of Japan. The students acquire in-depth knowledge on culture, economy, business, policy, history and geography from accomplished scholars, professionals experienced in policy, renowned artists and entrepreneurs. The program is also designed for Japanese students to acquire the knowledge and skills to introduce their country to overseas in their future careers. Some of the coursework involves excursions or hands-on experiences. This program consists of 16 courses (32 credits) taught in English.

(Courses are subject to change.)

Title	Description	Semester
Introduction to Japanese Culture	This course is a general introduction to Japanese culture and society. First, we will examine research methodologies to Japanese culture. Second, we will cover Japanese cultural elements, including art, skill, cuisine, literature, communication, etc. Finally, we will look at some of the major spiritual elements that have shaped modern Japanese culture and society, including Shinto, Buddhism, syncretism, and the Western influences. A variety of films and videos will be used. Students will give several presentations and write a final test.	Spring
Modern Japanese History: From Samurai Age to Modernity	The course aims to provide students with an overview of the history of modern Japan from the early modern Edo Bakufu (1600-1867) to the end of the Pacific War in 1945. They will encounter some of the most important individuals, institutions, and ideas that have been involved in Japan's rise as a modern power. Particular emphasis will be placed on the global context and Japan's multi-dimensional interaction with other countries. Social and cultural developments will be discussed alongside key political events, offering students insight into not only the emergence of the modern Japanese state, but also the daily lives of people in the past.	Spring
Surveying and Cartography in Japan	This course is designed as an introduction to the geography of Japan. It will focus on understanding the geographical environment of Japan, studying various disasters in Japan including the policy for disaster prevention and reduction and the roles of geospatial information against disasters. It will also give a lecture on basic methods of surveying and cartography as a tool for the visualization of natural conditions and disaster risks. It includes a small group work and the oral presentation among participants, and also enhances the development of students' skill in making oral presentation and cooperating with others.	Spring



Title	Description	Semester
Japanese Economic Cooperation with Developing Countries	<p>How should we eradicate poverty and inequality? How should we achieve peace and justice? How should we guarantee prosperity, health, education, and decent work for all? Japan has been tackling these challenges for over sixty years, by providing aid (Official Development Assistance: ODA) to developing countries with distinctive aid philosophy and unique instruments.</p> <p>This course firstly introduces a basic knowledge about development issues and Japan's ODA policy. Then students are encouraged to think critically about the conventional wisdom on global agendas. The course will be interactive, with the combination of lecture, group discussion, and role-playing game. No prior knowledge is required.</p>	Spring
Traditional Art and Culture in Modern Japan	<p>This course focuses on Japanese traditional culture. It is designed to provide students with information on Japanese traditional culture such as flower arrangement, calligraphy, Japanese cuisine, <i>Kyogen</i>, <i>Kabuki</i> and so on. The course will be taught by artists, performers and experts who are known internationally. Students will have the unique opportunities to listen to their experiences, their thinking and the background as well as to watch performances first hand. Depending on the topic, you will also have hands on experiences in class.</p>	Spring
Economic and Industrial Development Policy in Postwar Japan	<p>In this course features of Japan's post-WWII economic development will be examined. Particular attention will be paid at the concept of industrial policy and institutional aspects of Japan's economy.</p>	Spring

Title	Description	Semester
War Memory in Modern Japan	This class will survey how war memories have influenced Japanese identity and vice versa in twentieth-century Japan. The class will also examine the impact of Japanese and international politics on the relationship between war memories and Japanese identity. Lectures and class discussions are based on weekly readings.	Fall
Introduction to Japanese Politics and Society	The course seeks to introduce students to the fundamental political, economic and social components of modern Japan through tracing its historical development from the end of the Pacific War in 1945 up until the present. Through a comprehensive and global approach, students will learn of the major developments that have shaped Japan on the way from its struggle to rebuild after the war to its rise as a major economic and cultural power in the contemporary world. The course will cover not only the transformation of the state and social systems, but also the impact of these on the lives and culture of the population.	Fall
Issues in Modern Japanese Education	The lecture aims to reveal the special characteristics of Japanese education and society by understanding the social role and function of education and the social factors behind educational issues. Specifically, the lecture will consider social and educational change in Japan through the radical changes in education that have occurred up to the present time from the early-modern period when learning became common throughout society as a whole, to the period of postwar recovery, to the period of rapid economic growth, to the period of globalization. With regard to present-day education, particular attention will be paid to the various issues in education that have accompanied social changes.	Fall
Lifestyle and Society in Japan	This class will introduce students to twentieth-century Japanese History. The main part of this class will consist in a joint reading of the second half of Andrew Gordon's A Modern History of Japan (Third International Edition, 2013). Weekly classes will be primarily lectured based, but some time will be devoted to discussions. The lectures will review the text, highlighting and enlarging on its main points.	Fall

Title	Description	Semester
Cool Japan: Contextualizing Contemporary Popular Culture	<p>This course focuses on Japanese contemporary culture, so called Cool Japan. It is designed to provide students with information about robotics, anime, fashion, music, origami and so on. It will enable the students to acquire the knowledge and skills to present Japanese contemporary culture globally. Experts and artists will present features of 'cool Japan' and show how Japanese contemporary culture and arts can promote cultural understanding. During this course, students will also take part in workshops to gain experience of origami making etc. This will allow students to appreciate the Japanese heart and mind as reflected in contemporary culture.</p>	Fall
Travel and Tourism in Contemporary Japan	<p>Tourism is regarded as the pillar of Japan's economic growth strategy, and one of the main components of the regional revitalization. The students of this class will learn to understand the present conditions of our country's international and domestic tourism, and how they are contributing to the society and the economy. In the class, some of the popular tourist destinations and tourism facilities will be introduced, as well as the major stakeholders in the tourism industry, including hotels, ryokan, transport and tourism organizations. Discussion will also extend to tourism management and policy making of present-day Japan.</p>	Fall
Financial Systems and Economic Development in Postwar Japan	<p>In this course, the process of achievement in reconstruction and development of post-war Japan's economy will be examined. Particular focus will be the several economic development stages in post-WWII era and the special role of development finance, especially Japan Development Bank that is considered to have played a substantial role in Japan's post-war economy for various aspects: implementing World Bank loans for reconstruction, financing leading industries in 1960's, promoting environmental sustainability more recently.</p>	Fall

Title	Description	Semester
New Frontiers in Geospatial Gaming	<p>Google / Ingress I - Beyond Google Earth.</p> <p>Google Earth has changed the educational method of geography. It is a very useful visualization tool, but only for the cyber world. Not for real world. Google has known this demerit on Google Earth, so they have launched the Ingress system on the mobile phone in 2012. The Ingress can make the chances for outdoor actives in the city. This course will explain the state of the Ingress in Japan for geospatial education and tourism.</p>	2nd half of Fall
Advanced Resilient Communities against Disaster	<p>SAFECAST</p> <p>This course will describe the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Powerplant disaster, its causes, its consequences for people and the environment, and the innovative response of the citizens' based environmental monitoring group SAFECAST. It will include lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on workshops (building a GPS/data logging Geiger counter, and logging and mapping radiation data). A reading list will be provided, which will include chapters from relevant books, web reports, and online videos.</p>	2nd half of Fall
Drone Journalism	<p>Conventional photography and video in journalism has been subjective in its angle of view and composition, with much of it taken from the ground, assuming a human presence. However, with the use of unmanned aircraft drones, a collection of cutting-edge technology, journalists have a new set of eyes that can give them a more objective and bird's eye view. In this course, we will learn the principles of photography and video that a camera can record, and by flying the drone ourselves, we will gain the skills necessary for journalists to obtain factual information, and discuss what the next generation of journalism should be like with you.</p> <p>This class is partly conducted in combination with a real-time class using Zoom, etc.</p>	Fall Intensive