

Subject card

Subject name and code	A history of modern Japan: from bakumatsu to the present day, PG_00177299						
Field of study	Japanese Studies						
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025		Academic year of realisation of subject		2025/2026		
Education level	Bachelor's studies		Subject group		Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group		
Mode of study	full-time studies		Mode of delivery		at the university		
Year of study	1		Language of instruction		Polish		
Semester of study	2		ECTS credits		2.0		
Learning profile	academic		Assessment form				
Conducting unit							
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor		Marek Skurski				
	Teachers						
Lesson types	Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
	Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30
	E-learning hours included: 0.0						
Learning activity and number of study hours	Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan		Participation in consultation hours		Self-study	SUM
	Number of study hours	30		2.0		18.0	50
Subject objectives	The purpose of the course is to familiarize students with selected aspects of Japan's political, social, and economic history from the beginning of the modern era to the present day, presented in accordance with the rigorous scientific standards of the discipline of hist						
Learning outcomes	Course outcome		Subject outcome		Method of verification		
	[JAPL3_K01] Student is aware of the scope of his professional knowledge and skills and understands the need for further continuous development in professional skills, as well as personal and social competence.		is aware of the scope of their knowledge and professional skills in the field of modern and contemporary Japanese history, and understands the need for further continuous development in this direction, including professional skills as well as personal and social competences		[SK4] test/exam - oral or written [SK8] observation of student's independent or team work		
	[JAPL3_U10] Student can argue substantively using the views of other authors and to formulate conclusions.		can use basic theoretical concepts present in political, social, and economic history in relation to modern and contemporary Japan		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written		
	[JAPL3_W01] Student is familiar with the terminology of the humanities such as cultural and religious studies, linguistics and literary studies, as well as history, cultural anthropology, philosophy and art sciences relevant to the Japanese studies major.		knows historical terminology related to the history of Japan in the modern and contemporary periods has knowledge of the most important historical processes in Japan from the 17th to the 21st century, including modernization, urbanization, Westernization, industrialization, and democratization		[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion		
	[JAPL3_U19] Student can work in a group, taking on different roles in it.		performs tasks assigned by the course instructor is able to acquire knowledge and develop research skills		[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU8] observation of student's independent or team work		

Subject contents	The course focuses on the following issues: the transformation of Japanese society from a pre-industrial to an industrial and then post-industrial society; the construction of modern statehood during the Meiji period; the development of a universal national identity; Japan's military expansion; the management of colonies and annexed territories; the development of radical political movements in the interwar period; World War II; social life under total mobilization; democratization and reforms under American occupation; the emergence of a consumer society in the era of dynamic economic development in the second half of the 20th century; Japan's foreign policy during the Cold War; economic stagnation since the 1990s and its social consequences; the most important problems and challenges of contemporary Japanese politics (demography, border disputes, national defense, historical policy).		
Prerequisites and co-requisites	None		
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	active participation in classes – 30% (100% attendance is required, with any absences to be made up during consultations)	80.0%	30.0%
	written exam at the end of the semester	51.0%	70.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	• MIKURIYA Takashi, <i>Kingendai Nihon wo shiryō de yomu. Ōkubo Toshimichi nikki kara Tomita memo made</i>, Chūō Kōron Shinsha: Tōkyō 2011. • DE BARY William T., GLUCK Carol, TIEDEMANN Arthur E. (red.), <i>Sources of Japanese Tradition</i>, vol. 2: 1600-2000, Columbia University Press: New York 2005. • GORDON Andrew, <i>Nowożytna historia Japonii</i>, tłum. I. Merklejn, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy: Warszawa 2010. • ŁUCZKO Mirosław, <i>Itō Hirobumi i Yamagata Aritomo. Czołowi politycy Japonii okresu Meiji</i>, Wydawnictwo TRIO: Warszawa 2006. • DREA Edward J., <i>Cesarska Armia Japonii</i>, tłum. Tomasz Teszner, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego: Kraków 2012. • HALL John W., <i>Japonia od czasów najdawniejszych do dzisiaj</i>, tłum. K. Czyżewska-Madajewicz, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy: Warszawa 1979.	
	Supplementary literature	• DUUS Peter (red.), <i>The Cambridge History of Japan</i>, vol. 6: <i>The Twentieth Century</i>, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge 1988. • TSURUMI Shunsuke, <i>A Cultural History of Postwar Japan 1945-1980</i>, Routledge: London-New York 2011. • LARGE Stephen S., <i>Emperor Hirohito and Shōwa Japan. A Political Biography</i>, Routledge: London-New York 1992. • SAALER Sven, KOSCHMANN Victor J. (red.), <i>Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History</i>, Routledge: London-New York 2006. • AVENELL Simon A., <i>Making Japanese Citizens. Civil Society and the Mythology of the Shimin in Postwar Japan</i>, University of California Press: Berkeley-Los Angeles-London 2010. • JANSEN Marius, <i>Sakamoto Ryōma and the Meiji Restoration</i>, Stanford University Press: Stanford 1971. • SPLISGART Jacek, <i>Przemiany ery Meiji (1868-1912). Modernizacja a formowanie się nowej tożsamości w Japonii</i>, Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej, 2016, z. 10.	
	eResources addresses		
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	The political, social, and economic history of Japan from the beginning of the modern era to the present day.		
Work placement	Not applicable		

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