

Subject card

Subject name and code	A history of modern Japan: from bakumatsu to the present day, PG_00178362						
Field of study	Chinese 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		credit		
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 aim of the course is to familiarize students with selected aspects of Japans political, social, and economic history from the early modern period to the present, presented in accordance with the scholarly standards of the historical discipline.						

Learning outcomes	Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
	[SINL3_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate the knowledge acquired during Sinology studies and the content corresponding to that knowledge.	Is prepared to critically assess the knowledge acquired during studies in the Sinology program and the content encountered that corresponds to this knowledge – especially content related to modern and contemporary history of Japan, also in the areas where history and cultures of Japan and China overlap.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[SINL3_U08] Is able to plan and organize work both individually and as part of a team.	Is able to plan and organize individual and group work, both with regard to topics related to Japanese history and subjects from related areas of the humanities and social sciences, such as anthropology, political studies, religious studies, or sociology.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
	[SINL3_W03] Knows and understands, at an advanced level, the methodologies, theories, and terminology that constitute the fundamental general knowledge in the field of the humanities and related disciplines.	Knows and understands, at an advanced level, the methodology, theory, and terminology (e.g. bakufu, daimyo, zaibatsu) of history in relation to the modern and contemporary history of Japan.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/conversation/discussion
	[SINL3_U05] Is able to present various opinions and positions in both oral and written form, evaluate them, and engage in discussion.	Is able to present, both orally and in writing, various opinions and positions concerning the modern and contemporary history of Japan and related issues (e.g. traditional perspective, rōnō-ha and kōza-ha historical schools, contemporary viewpoints) to evaluate them, and to engage in discussion about them.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/discussion [SU4] test/exam - oral or written
Subject contents	The course focuses on the following issues: the transformation of Japanese society from a pre-industrial to an industrial and later post-industrial society; the construction of a modern state during the Meiji period; the development of a unified national identity; Japan's military expansion; governance of colonies and annexed territories; the rise of radical political movements in the interwar period; World War II; social life under conditions of total mobilization; democratization and reforms under American occupation; the emergence of a consumer society during the period of rapid economic growth 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; and key problems and challenges facing contemporary Japanese politics (demographics, territorial disputes, national defense, historical policy).		
Prerequisites and co-requisites			
Assessment methods and criteria	Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
	Written examination graded at the end of the semester	51.0%	70.0%
	Active participation in class	51.0%	30.0%
Recommended reading	Basic literature	Used in class: MIKURIYA Takashi, Kingendai Nihon wo shiryō de yomu. Ōkubo Toshimichi nikki kara Tomita memo made, Chūō Kōron Shinsha: Tōkyō 2011. DE BARY William T., GLUCK Carol, TIEDEMANN Arthur E. (red.), Sources of Japanese Tradition, vol. 2: 1600-2000, Columbia University Press: New York 2005. For independent study: GORDON Andrew, Nowożytna historia Japonii, tłum. I. Merklejn, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy: Warszawa 2010. ŁUCZKO Mirosław, Itō Hirobumi i Yamagata Aritomo. Czołowi politycy Japonii okresu Meiji, Wydawnictwo TRIO: Warszawa 2006. DREA Edward J., Cesarska Armia Japonii, tłum. Tomasz Teszner, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego: Kraków 2012. HALL John W., Japonia od czasów najdawniejszych do dzisiaj, tłum. K. Czyżewska-Madajewicz, Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy: Warszawa 1979.	

	Supplementary literature	DUUS Peter (red.), The Cambridge History of Japan, vol. 6: The Twentieth Century, Cambridge University Press: Cambridge 1988. TSURUMI Shunsuke, A Cultural History of Postwar Japan 1945-1980, Routledge: London-New York 2011. LARGE Stephen S., Emperor Hirohito and Shōwa Japan. A Political Biography, Routledge: London-New York 1992. SAALER Sven, KOSCHMANN Victor J. (red.), Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History, Routledge: London-New York 2006. AVENELL Simon A., Making Japanese Citizens. Civil Society and the Mythology of the Shimin in Postwar Japan, University of California Press: Berkeley-Los Angeles-London 2010. JANSEN Marius, Sakamoto Ryōma and the Meiji Restoration, Stanford University Press: Stanford 1971. SPLISGART Jacek, Przemiany ery Meiji (1868-1912). Modernizacja a formowanie się nowej tożsamości w Japonii, Gdańskie Studia Azji Wschodniej, 2016, z. 10.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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