COURSE DETAIL

HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY JAPAN
Country Japan
Host Institution International Christian University
Program(s) International Christian University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) History Asian Studies
UCEAP Course Number 133
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY JAPAN
UCEAP Transcript Title CONTEMPORARY JAPAN
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.70

Course Description

Japan, as recent history has powerfully illustrated, is one of the world's most earthquake-prone countries. Today it is also one of the best prepared to face such extraordinary seismic risk. This was not always the case.

Using earthquakes as a window into Japanese society, this course examines when, how, and why contemporary Japan became a nation prepared for disaster as we know it today. The course explores interconnections between nature, politics, education, economics, ideology, and the built environment in new and exciting ways. It considers earthquakes as events that not only cause suffering and devastation, but occurrences that inspire opportunism and unleash contestation. The themes and questions we explore remain relevant to Japan today.

This course will adopt an interdisciplinary approach and use a range of primary source material to explore topics including vulnerability and resilience; survivor accounts; visual representations of destruction in art and media; relief; reconstruction; political use of catastrophe; commemoration; disaster education and training.

Students will acquire a sophisticated understanding of the following: how earthquakes have been interpreted, explained, and remembered in Japanese culture and society; how governments use disasters and reconstruction processes that follow for political purposes; how and why earthquakes often expose underlying tensions in society and result in competing visions for post-disaster rebuilding and the future. Students completing this course will have a detailed understanding of how disasters have shaped Japanese history, culture, and society.

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
HST221E

Host Institution Course Title
HISTORY OF CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

Host Institution Course Details
https://campus.icu.ac.jp/public/ehandbook/PreviewSyllabus.aspx?regno=21204&year...

Host Institution Campus
International Christian University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department
History

Course Last Reviewed
2023-2024

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