COURSE DETAIL

JAPANESE GAGAKU
Country Japan
Host Institution Keio University
Program(s) Keio University
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Music
UCEAP Course Number 135
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title JAPANESE GAGAKU
UCEAP Transcript Title JAPANESE GAGAKU
UCEAP Quarter Units 3.00
UCEAP Semester Units 2.00

Course Description

Gagaku is one of Japan's traditional musical genres, boasting the longest history. Along with Buddhist chanting, it forms the backbone of Japanese music. Understanding the history and structure of gagaku is fundamental to understanding the diverse forms of Japanese music.

This course first defines the term *gagaku* in Japan, grasping its etymology and genres, then studying the basics of the imported music and dance that form the core of the current *gagaku* tradition (e.g., genres, instrument arrangements, and performance techniques). Then, it traces the history of ancient Japanese songs and dances, as well as music and dances from the continent that were introduced between the 5th and 9th centuries. The course then examines the evolution of *gagaku* from its peak in the Heian period to its current form from various angles.

Thus, this class experiences the rich diversity of *gagaku*, a genre that continues to thrive today. It includes the many variations of traditional pieces preserved in ancient scores, pieces that have been given new life through revivals and restorations, and the possibilities of musical expression that have expanded through the adoption of Western music.

Language(s) of Instruction
Japanese

Host Institution Course Number
N/A

Host Institution Course Title
ONGAKUSHI TOKUSHU II E: NIHON NI OKERU GAGAKU NO SHOSO

Host Institution Course Details
https://gslbs.keio.jp/pub-syllabus/detail?ttblyr=2025&entno=00471&lang=jp

Host Institution Campus
Keio University

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department Letters
Course Last Reviewed 2025-2026

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