

# 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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