

Osaka Gakuin University 2025-2026 Fall Semester

The Power of Japanese Pop Culture

Instructor :

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Lesson: Thursday 13:30-15:15, 15:30-17:15

Office Hours: By appointment

Subject Code: 1035

Course Description:

This course explores the social and historical contexts in which Japanese popular culture emerged and evolved. Focusing on key developments in manga and anime, the course examines how these forms of media have grown to become global symbols of Japanese culture. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the cultural, technological, and societal factors that shaped Japanese Pop Culture and contributed to its worldwide appeal.

Resources

Lecturer will prepare materials.

Grade Breakdown

Submitted works in daily lecture:	30 %
Participation in class activities and presentations:	30 %
Assignments:	40 %

Notes:

- Information in this syllabus is subject to minor changes. Any such changes will be announced in class.
- The class includes a field trip to the Kyoto International Manga Museum. The schedule will be discussed during the first session.

Course Schedule :

Week 1	Introduction and Preliminaries
Week 2	Japanese Culture and Society
Week 3	Exploring Japanese Pop Culture
Week 4	Japanese Manga and Anime: Character
Week 5	Japanese Manga and Anime: Story
Week 6	Japanese Manga and Anime: Group Project
Week 7	Otaku Culture in Japan and Around the World
Week 8	The Japanese Entertainment Industry: Music
Week 9	The Japanese Entertainment Industry: Film
Week 10	Youth Culture in Japan and Around the World
Week 11	Technological Innovations in Pop Culture
Week 12	Social impact of Pop Culture
Week 13	Final Presentation / Course Review

Preliminary Study

In this course, we will discuss various forms of Japanese content such as anime, manga, and film. Works like *Neon Genesis Evangelion* will not only deepen your understanding of Japanese Manga and Anime but also provide insight into Youth Culture and Otaku Culture. Viewing content related to your interests in advance will help you engage more actively in class discussions.