

Osaka Gakuin University 2025-2026 Spring Semester	
Contemporary Japanese Thought	
Instructor :	
Héctor Benjamín Uclés Flores E-mail: hector.benjamin.ucles@gmail.com Lesson: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 17:30-19:15 Subject code: 2058	
Course Description:	
This advanced presentation and discussion course approaches Japanese topics from nuanced perspectives that challenge stereotypes and move toward accurate understanding. We will ask, what produces the gap between careful interpretation and stereotype? To address this and related questions, we will examine key theoretical tools and concepts. Topics include nationalism, discrimination, and gender.	
Resources	
The materials will be provided throughout the course.	
Evaluation	
Class participation: [50%] Presentation: [30%] Final Paper: [20%]	
Notes:	
Course Schedule:	

Course starts from the week of 1/26
Week 1: Introduction and Preliminaries
Week 2: Japanese contemporary thought under a decolonial perspective
Week 3: Colonialism and Modernity
Week 4: Orientalism as a colonial tool
Week 5: Japan and Orientalism
Week 6: The Fear of Being Excluded
Week 7: Japanese Neo-Nationalism
Week 8: The Symbolic Emperor System
Week 9: The Imaginary Geography of a Nation
Week 10: Overcoming Modernity
Week 11: In the Feminine Guise
Week 12: Collapse of "Japanese Mothers"
Week 13: Class assessment