

# **JSP Elective Courses (Spring 2018)**

## ***(1) The Soft Power of Cool Japan (4 credits)***

**CLOSE Natalie**

**13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Thursday)**

In 2010 the Japanese government formally implemented a strategy called Cool Japan, which aims at increasing Japan's influence in the world through a process known as soft power. We will look into the various forms of Cool Japan including anime, manga, gaming, and fashion, as well as some of the less well-known areas such as sport and the arts, from a historical perspective. In addition, we will look at the contemporary status of popular culture both in Japan and globally, critically examine the success of the Cool Japan program, and discuss what the future may hold. Overall, this course will raise students' critical awareness of a variety of cultural and social issues related to modern Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By the end of this course students will have a grasp of the concept of soft power and how the popular culture of Japan is affecting its position in the world. Students will look at the historical position of Japanese popular culture and how this has developed in recent years. Students will also be able to critically assess the success of the 'Cool Japan' program in light of recent developments.

## ***(2) Japanese Religion (4 credits)***

**DROTT Edward**

**13:10-14:40 & 14:50-16:20 (Friday)**

This course traces the development and cultural impact of the diverse religious traditions of Japan. It will focus on the role that folk traditions, Buddhism, Shinto and New Religious Movements have had in the formation of Japanese culture, as well as the ways in which these traditions have adapted to the unique social and historical circumstances found in Japan.

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## Course credits

Total class time (in class)	Study time (outside class)	Credits (Total)
1 class (2hrs)/week x 15 weeks	4hrs/week x 15 weeks	6hrs/week x 15 weeks / 45hrs = 2 credits
2 classes (4hrs)/week x 15 weeks	8hrs/week x 15 weeks	12hrs/week x 15 weeks / 45hrs = 4 credits

**\*Note (1):** Actual class periods last 90 minutes, but under TIU's credit system, each period corresponds to 2 hours.

**\*Note (2):** JSP students usually register between 16 and 20 credits (Intensive Japanese courses are 8 credits).

**\*Note (3):** The transfer of credits is at the discretion of your home institution. Please contact your university's Academic Registrar's Office to confirm if the courses you wish to take are eligible for credit transfer. As a general reference, 1 TIU credit = 1 USA credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK credits. Different credit systems and/or conversion ratios might apply.