



SYLLABUS

The Paradox of Japanese Modernism: Modernization, Westernization, Japanization

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study program

1.1. University	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3. Department	Asian Languages and Literatures
1.4. Field of study	Language and Literature
1.5. Study cycle (BA/MA)	MA
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Japanese Language and Literature/ MA in Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

2.1. Course title		The Paradox of Japanese Modernism: Modernization, Westernization, Japanization (in Romanian)				Course code		LMA1208			
2.2. Course tutor					Prof.dr. habil. Rodica Frențiu						
2.3. Seminar					Prof.dr. habil. Rodica Frențiu						
2.4. Year of study		I	2.5. Semester	2	2.6. Type of assessment		E	2.7. Course status		Contents	DF
										Mandatory	DOb

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1. Number of hours per week	2	of which: 3.2 course	1	3.3 seminar	1
3.4. Total number of hours in the curriculum	28	of which: 3.5 course	14	3.6 seminar	14
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					32
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					32
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					40
Tutoring					14
Assessment (examinations)					4
Other activities: Student Consultations					4
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					126
3.8. Total hours per semester					154
3.9. Number of credits					6

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	-
4.2. skills	Knowledge of cultural history

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5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for delivering lectures	Classroom, video projector, xerox, photocopies, books
5.2. for teaching seminars	Seminar room

6. Acquired specific skills

Professional/essential skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C3 Applies scientific methods. • C8 Manages personal professional development. • C9 Writes scientific, academic papers and technical documentation.
Transversal skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CT1 Shows initiative. • CT2 Accepts criticism and guidance.

7. Course objectives (derived from the acquired specific skills)

7.1 General objective of course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applying scientific methods and techniques to investigate cultural phenomena, acquiring new knowledge or correcting and integrating previous knowledge.
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mastering scientific research methods. • Acquiring the ability to read, interpret and critically summarize new and complex information from various sources. • Acquiring the ability to write scientific, academic papers, following spelling and grammar rules, creating a coherent text.

8. Contents

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
Introductory Course: Presentation of the Course and Seminar Topics, Along with Examination Details.		
Modernity and Tradition in 21st Century Japan	Presentation; Interactive Course	
Strategies of Modernisation. National Character. Westernisation. Japanization	Presentation; Interactive Course	
The Pathology of Modernisation: the Effects of Progressive Modernization in Japanese Culture	Presentation; Interactive Course	



The Search for identity. Reconstructing Tradition		
Rethinking Japanese Modernism: from Modernism to Postmodernism	Presentation; Interactive Course	
Conclusions: The Fascination of Japan in the West The Love-hate Relationship between Japan and the West over the Centuries	Presentation; Interactive Course	
<p>Bibliography Benedict, Ruth. 1994. <i>The Chrysanthemum and the Sword. Patterns of Japanese Culture</i>, Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle. Courdy, Jean-Claude, 1979. <i>Les Japonais</i>, Paris: Pierre Belfond. De Voss, Patrick (ed.). 1989. <i>Litterature Japonaise Contemporaine. Essais</i>. Bruxelles: Editions Labor, pp. 32-45. Frențiu, Rodica. 2004. <i>Speriat din vis de vântul hoinar... Studii de semiotică a culturii și poetică japoneză</i>. Cluj-Napoca: Editura Casa Cărții de Știință. Frențiu, Rodica. 2007. Haruki Murakami. <i>Jocul metaforic al lumilor alternative</i>. Cluj-Napoca: Editura Argonaut. Frențiu, Rodica. 2010. <i>Clar-obscur, vag și ambiguitate. Avataruri ale literaturii japoneze moderne și contemporane</i>. Cluj-Napoca: Editura Casa Cărții de Știință. Frențiu, Rodica. 2017. <i>Limbajul poetic – act creator și actualitate culturală. Modelul cultural japonez</i>. 2nd ed., revised. Cluj-Napoca : Presa Universitară Clujeană. Hirakawa, Sukehiro. 2009. <i>Japan's Love-Hate Relationship with the West</i>. Kent: Global Oriental. Janeira, Armando Martins, <i>Japanese and Western Culture. A Comparative Study</i>, Tokyo: Charles. E. Tuttle Company, 1970. Kato, Shuichi. 1994. <i>Japan. Spirit & Form</i>, with an Introduction by Roger Goepper, translated and adapted from the Japanese by Junko Abe and Lesa Lowitz, Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle Company. Kawabata, Yasunari. 1969. <i>The Existence and Discovery of Beauty/ Bi no sonzai to hakken</i>, Translated by V. H. Viglielmo, Tokyo: The Mainichi Newspapers. Keene, Donald. 2003. <i>Five Modern Japanese Novelists</i>, New-York: Columbia University Press. Nemoianu, Virgil; Royal, Robert (eds.). 1992. <i>Play, Literature, Religion. Essays in Cultural Intertextuality</i>. New-York: State University of New-York Press. Starrs, Roy (ed.). 2012. <i>Rethinking Japanese Modernism</i>. Leiden: Global Oriental. Shively, Donald. H. 1971. <i>Tradition and Modernization in Japanese Culture</i>. New Jersey: Princeton University Press. Umegaki, Michio. 1990. <i>Epilogue: National Identity, National Past, Nationalisms</i>, în James W. (et alii), <i>The Ambivalence of Nationalism. Modern Japan between East and West</i>, Maryland: University Press of America, pp. 251-265. Vande Walle, Willy F. 2008. <i>Le Japon de l'ère Meiji. Identité, modernisation, occidentalisation</i>. În Marres, Thierry (ed.), <i>Mondialisation et identité. Les débats autour de l'occidentalisation et de l'orientalisation (19^e-21^e siècles)</i>, Louvain-la-Neuve : Academia Bruylant, pp. 39-64. Yamaguchi, Seishi. 1993. <i>The Essence of Modern Haiku. 300 Poems by Seishi Yamaguchi</i>. Translated by Takashi Kodaira and Alfred H. Marks, with a Foreword by Sono Uchida, calligraphy by Seishi Yamaguchi. Atlanta/ Georgia: Mangajin, Inc. Waswo, Ann. 1996. <i>Modern Japanese Society 1868-1994</i>, Oxford: Oxford University Press. *** 2001. <i>If Someone Asks... Masaoka Shiki's Life and Haiku</i>. Translations by Shiki Memorial Museum English Volunteers. Matsuyama / The Shiki Museum: Myōjō Printing Company.</p>		
8.2 Seminar	Teaching methods	Remarks
Introductory seminar: presentation of the discipline, objectives, programming and organization of activities, presentation of the final evaluation method.		
About <i>Japaneseness</i> : The Japanese about themselves	conversation, explanation, exemplification, problematization; text analysis	
Travel memoirs in Japan under literary disguises: Pierre Loti, Ioan Timuș	conversation, explanation, exemplification, problematization; text analysis	



The fictional-literary imaginary about Japan: Amélie Nothomb, Florina Ilis	conversation, explanation, exemplification, problematization; text analysis	
In search of Japanese identity: Lafcadio Hearn, Okakura Kakuzo, Itohe Nazo	conversation, explanation, exemplification, problematization; text analysis	
The cultural-semiotic Japanese imaginary: Roland Barthes, Claude-Levi Strauss	conversation, explanation, exemplification, problematization; text analysis	
The conquest of the language of <i>the other</i> : Amélie Nothomb, Akira Mizubayashi	conversation, explanation, exemplification, problematization; text analysis	
<p>Bibliography Barthes, Roland. 2007. <i>Imperiul semnelor</i>. Translated from French by Alex Cistelecan. București: Editura Cartier. Diaconu, Kazuko; Diaconu, Paul. 1994. <i>Japonezii despre ei înșiși</i>. Vol. I și II. București: Editura Nipponica. Ilis, Florina. 2006. <i>Cinci nori colorați pe cerul de răsărit</i>. Novel. București: Cartea Românească. Kakuzo, Okakura. 2008. <i>Cartea ceaiului</i>. București: Editura Nemira. Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 2013. <i>Cealaltă față a lunii. Scrieri despre Japonia</i>. Prefață de Junzo Kawada. Translated by Giuliano Shichi. Iași: Polirom. Loti, Pierre. 1991. <i>Doamna Crinzatema</i>. Translated by Maia Emandi. București: Editura Edinter. Mizubayashi, Akira. 2019. <i>O limbă venită de departe</i>. Prefață de Daniel Pennac. Translation, notes and afterword by Rodica Baconsky și Alina Pelea. Nitobe, Inazo. 1995. <i>Bushido – Codul samurailor</i>. București: Garell Publishing House. Nothomb, Amélie. 2002. <i>Uimire și cutremur</i>. Translated by Dragoș Bobu. Foreword by Alex Călinescu. Iași: Editura Polirom. Nothomb, Amélie. 2008. <i>În necunoștință de cauză</i>. Translated from French and noted by Maria Zârna. Iași: Editura Polirom. Richie, Donald (ed.). 2009. <i>Japonia lui Lafcadio Hearn</i>. O antologie despre Japonia și poporul ei. Edition and introduction by Donald Richie. Translated from English and notes by Angela Hondru. București: Editura Humanitas. Timuș, Ioan. 1984. <i>Ogio-san (Domnișoare)</i>. Roman. Edition and Foreword by Doina Curticăpeanu. Cluj-Napoca: Editura Dacia.</p>		

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the discipline has been developed based on an updated bibliography. The content is consistent with what is taught in other university centres in the country (University of Bucharest) and abroad. The concept, argumentation and examples are original. The discipline provides students with the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities in accordance with the requirements of employers in education and philological research.

10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Weight in the final grade
10.4 Course	Exam consisting of topics that verify all the information provided during the course. <i>Standard</i>	2-hour written exam, graded from 1 to 10.	50%

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	The exam test accumulates a total score of 10 points. The score assigned to each requirement is written next to it on the exam test. N.B. Classwork may be awarded 1 point on the exam (only in the case of a passing grade). Cheating or fraud: grade 1.		
10.5 Seminar	Cheating or Fraud: grade 1 Term paper presented during the semester. Attendance is mandatory at a 75% rate.	Seminar paper, graded from 1 to 10.	50%
10.6 Basic performance standard			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading, interpreting and critically summarizing new information found in various sources consulted. Awareness of complex particularities and synthesis of information Presenting hypotheses and conclusions of scientific research in one's own field of expertise within a professional publication. Writing a scientific/academic text on various topics, in accordance with the specific norms of scientific communication. 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

	General label for Sustainable Development

Date:
27.01.2025

Course tutor's name and signature

Prof.dr. habil. Rodica Frențiu

Rodica Frențiu

Seminar tutor's name and signature

Prof.dr. habil. Rodica Frențiu

Rodica Frențiu

Date of approval:
30.01.2025

Head of Department's name and signature,

Prof.dr. habil. Rodica Frențiu

Rodica Frențiu

Date of approval
Name and signature of Dean