2024 GIC Classes

No. 1

Course Title	Literature I: Gender in a Contemporary and Cross-Cultural Context
Instructors	Katsura SAKO, Shannon WELCH
Course Description	This course will explore gender and gender norms in a contemporary and cross-cultural context through reading literary and filmic texts from Japan and other areas such as the UK, Canada, and the US. We will consider a variety of issues that relate to gender that these texts introduce such as female subjectivities, motherhood, ageing, race, transgender, and immigration. We will also think about specific ways in which these texts address these issues and tell stories. Examining language, narrative form, and cultural context as well as plot, we will ask how/whether these texts conform to, reproduce and/or question gender norms. Some key concepts from feminist, queer, and critical gender studies will be introduced to develop these critical inquiries and literary analysis.
Message to Students	If you love reading fiction, if you like to learn reading fiction critically, and most importantly, if you love talking about books and films with others, this course is for you!

No. 2

Course Title	Literature II: Moving across Borders
Instructors	Katsura SAKO, Miho WAKO
Course Description	Globalisation has propelled and has been propelled by people and things moving across borders. These movements have also contributed to the dissemination and exchange of knowledge as well as interactions and conflicts between different cultures and languages. This course addresses issues that arise from these movements. What may be the contexts that force, motivate or obstruct them? What would be the impacts of these movements on individuals and societies? We think about these questions through reading a range of literary and cultural texts that depict and explore crossing borders. The texts to be considered are mainly from western context and are from the 19th century onwards. Nonetheless, they introduce various issues that are widely relevant in many and interconnected societies. We hope that the course will enable students to reflect upon and critically approach the contemporary world and their own place in it.
Message to Students	If you love reading fiction, if you like to learn reading fiction critically, and most importantly, if you love talking about books and films with others, this course is for you!

No. 3

Course Title	De-centering the Human: Historical and Anthropological Approaches to the Environment in the Global South and Global North
Instructors	Tatsuya MITSUDA, Mari MIYAMOTO
Course Description	Against the pressing backdrop of global climate change, our anthropocentric, or human-centered, assumptions about the environment are being questioned as never before. This course,

	taught by faculty specializing in history and anthropology, examines how people have come to construct relationships with animals in the past and the present. In full recognition of the need to consider experiences not just of the Global North but also of the Global South, the course considers case studies from so-called "developed" and "developing" countries, investigating how people have viewed, negotiated, and exploited the non-human Other as resources, broadly conceived. Through group work and discussions, we will come to our own conclusions about our future relationship with the environment.
Message to Students	We welcome students with diverse backgrounds and interests who are willing to discuss and learn from others

No. 4

Course Title	Dynamic Post-WW II American Society seen through the Economy and Advertising
Instructors	Akira ISHII, Tomoko YAGYU
Course Description	This course focuses on two specific areas in the post-WWII United States, the "economy and business" and "music and advertisement". By blending these two elements together, students will be able to contextualize the characters and strengths of American capitalist development. Two consecutive sessions on each of the two topics will alternate throughout the semester.
Message to Students	We welcome anyone who is interested in learning about American society and culture; however, we would like to remind everyone that the GIC courses are not language classes and would not welcome those students who just want to acquire English skills.

No. 5

Course Title	Arab Society in Focus: Challenges, Changes, and Charms
Instructors	Eva Ohbaya, Doaa Zaher
Course Description	An insightful course aimed at offering a profound understanding of the Arab world in its present context. Drawing from the rich historical background to the emerging societal structures, the course attempts to navigate the complexities of the Arab world today, which is neither entirely traditional nor completely modern. The course is carefully designed to explore the diverse facets of Arab societies, emphasizing their dynamic identities within a global context. It also focuses on the subtle transition from traditional societies to more modern ones, considering their unique contexts.
Message to Students	Through this course, we aim for students to deepen their comprehensive understanding of the Arabic speaking world and to develop a broader perspective on the region. To achieve this, regular attendance and active participation in class are essential.

No. 6

Course Title	Advanst study of natural science I: Cognition & Design
Instructors	Shuichiro TAYA, Masaya ISHIKAWA
Course Description	In this course, students will learn through hands-on activities how the human 'seeing' mechanisms revealed in psychology and cognitive science have been or can be consciously or unconsciously

	utilised in design and manufacturing.
	   In our daily lives, we use visual representations such as video and graphics as a means of communication. However, when we try to create these visual expressions on our own, we may feel that the technical hurdles are too high.
	   In this lecture, you will learn the basics of primitive video production, including stop motion, while also understanding the cognitive mechanisms involved. Through this knowledge, we will discuss the concept and expression of communication design using unique graphics and video, which is different from existing methods of creation and can be used even when times and tools change.

Message to Students	In this class, the aim is to understand how things that people find beautiful and/or interesting are produced, on the one hand from a bottom-up perspective based on actual filmmaking experience, and on the other hand from a top-down perspective through a lecture on the mechanisms of human visual cognition. You do not need to hesitate to take this course because you think that you don't have a "good sense" of art. Also, you do not necessarily need to have experience in drawing pictures or making video works etc. If you have an enthusiasm for creating and expressing something, or if you want to think about what kind of expression would better communicate to others, you are more than welcome, and the teachers will respond to that enthusiasm. On the other hand, this is a class that is not completed simply by attending lectures. Students are expected to think and investigate for themselves the necessary problem-setting and problem-solving methods in order to carry out their projects. Teachers do not guide students hand in hand to the goal, while they will do their best to support the students' thinking process.

No. 7

Course Title	The Socio-Cultural Aspects of Food
Instructors	Koichi MIKAMI, Greg de St. Maurice
Course Description	This seminar course offers students an opportunity to engage academically with the topic of food and explore its socio-cultural aspects. Any living organism has to eat and gain nutrition necessary for survival, and we humans are no exception. Yet, for us, food means more than mere nutrition. Since the beginning of human civilization, we have developed sophisticated practices for obtaining, processing, preparing, serving and preserving different foods, and these have become an integral part of human cultures. In this course, we explore how food is studied in sociology and anthropology, and examine our food(-related) cultures from a range of perspectives.
Message to Students	This co-taught class will meet in person. We encourage interested students from every faculty, any academic year, and any level of English proficiency to apply. Motivated students who make an effort to engage with class materials, participate in class discussions, and apply skills and knowledge learned in class will do well.

No. 8

Course Title	Human Language Understanding and Generative AI: An Exploration of the Uses of AI in University Classes
Instructors	Kyoko OHARA, Hisami SUZUKI

Course Description	In this seminar, we will be exploring helpful and effective ways of using generative AI in university classes through discussions among participants and instructors.
	The ultimate goal of the seminar is to find effective ways of using generative AI for academic work. To achieve this goal, we will compare and contrast mechanisms of human language understanding and those of generative AI, and we will discuss and try to recognize issues and challenges for current generative AI.
	By the end of the semester, students will have learned the basic mechanisms of generative AI, which will enable them to have their own views on it. This will enhance the quality of their learning in university and will also help them to deal with this technology in their future workplaces. They will also realize the importance of learning about the background and basic mechanisms of new technologies before trying to quickly adapt to them.
Message to Students	The only prerequisite is to have interest in human languages and generative AI. Students who are willing to explore new fields of study other than their own and to use tools in various ways are encouraged to take this course.

No. 9

Course Title	Translation and Influence in a Global World
Instructors	Jonathan DIL, Motoko AKASHI
Course Description	What happens to culture in a global world? As we read and watch more of the same books and films, do we become more culturally similar, or is there much which is lost in translation? This global interdisciplinary course looks at questions of global influence and translation in literature and film. The popular Japanese writer Murakami Haruki (b. 1949) provides a focal point, and we will look at how he has adapted his American and Japanese influences into a brand of fiction that has gained popularity around the world. We will also look at how he has gone on to influence directors in film and anime. In addition, we will explore how Murakami has been translated into English, and how he has translated such classic works of literature as J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* (1951) into Japanese. In the process, we will become more critical observers and consumers of global culture and gain a deeper appreciation of how globalization may be affecting us all at a cultural level.
Message to Students	While some knowledge of Japanese will be helpful in this course, it is not a prerequisite. You will need to purchase and read two novels (in either Japanese or English). All other readings will be provided.

No. 10

Course Title	Modeling and Analysis of Dynamical Systems with Differential Equations
Instructors	Keita ANDO, Yoshiaki MIYAMOTO
Course Description	The target of this lecture is any dynamical systems in which quantities of concern can change in time. Dynamical systems can be modeled and analyzed with differential equations. Examples can be found in both natural and social sciences, including climate change, logistics, infection, biological systems, psychological responses, and market economy, for example. Students (with high-

	school calculus) are expected to select a topic of their interest and mathematically tackle the problem with the aid of Excel or other programming languages, and finally give a presentation on their achievement and summarize it as a scientific report.
Message to Students	Students are expected to learn "quantitative" analysis from mathematical modeling and simulation of transient phenomena in nature and societies.

No. 11

Course Title	Exploring Personal, Social and Planetary Well-being: Contemplative Arts-based Approaches to Marine Socio-ecology
Instructors	Yuki IMOTO, Aoi SUGIMOTO
Course Description	This course approaches well-being from an embodied and multi-level perspective, incorporating arts-based approaches. We will consider how the wellbeing of ecological systems, community, and ourselves, is intricately connected, with a focus on marine socio-ecology.
Message to Students	We welcome students who are interested in creative, interactive, field-based approaches to learning about the sea, the environment and ourselves.

No. 12

Course Title	Quantitative Data Analysis for Engineering and Social Science
Instructors	Linyu PENG, Yuto IMAI
Course Description	This course offers an elementary introduction to quantitative data analysis, focusing on its practical applications in both engineering and social science. Throughout the semester, students will grasp the fundamental principles of data collection, analysis, and interpretation, alongside a foundational understanding of probability and statistics. These skills will empower students to make informed decisions, conduct research, and tackle real-world challenges.
Message to Students	Unlock the secrets of data collection, analysis, and interpretation, gaining a versatile skill set applicable in engineering and social science realms. Enroll now to empower yourself with the tools to make informed decisions and tackle real-world challenges head-on.

No. 13

Course Title	Taller de traducción: traducir literatura japonesa al/del español
Instructors	Kazunori HAMADA, Yoshiko SUGIYAMA
Course Description	ことばを別の言語に移し替えるとき、何が問題となるのか？ 翻訳によって何が失われ、何が残るのか？「良い翻訳」とは何か？ 　この授業では、スペイン語に翻訳された日本文学の作品を日本語に再翻訳したり、日本語で書かれた原文をスペイン語に訳してみたりという実践を通じて、上の問いを考えます。普段の生活で自明と見なされている事物を別の言語で描き出すときに生じる「ゆらぎ」を受け止めつつ、自分オリジナルの「作品」に挑んでみましょう。 　なお、授業の開講言語はスペイン語です。ただし、場合に応じて日本語での補足も行います。
Message to Students	日本語や日本文化を違った角度から眺めてみたい人、英語と日本語という境界線とは別の「あいだ」に立って物を考えてみたい人、単になんとなくスペイン語が好きという人、この授業でとっくり遊んでみませんか。