

Cool Kobe: Bird's- & Worm's-Eye Views of Japanese Metropolis

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Concept

This course takes advantage of KGU's proximity to Kobe City (population 1.4 m) to introduce students to the history of this modern city as well as related themes in the historical of Japan at large. The course will provide students with basic facts, concepts, and perspectives for their independent, active exploration of the city's past and present against the backdrop of the standard textbook story of the nation. This course consists of lectures, quizzes, fieldtrips, reflections, and a final presentation.

Learning Outcome

By introducing concepts and facts specifically relevant to Kobe, this course aims to help students acquire a basic understanding of this international metropolis at the university's doorstep. Through learning about Kobe, this course also seeks to shed light on general questions relating to Japan's recent past as well as present conditions from multiple perspectives, including the political, economic, cultural, social, and environmental. After taking this course, students will have a broad understanding not only of Kobe but also, through the example of Kobe, the country as a whole. This course will compliment as well as extend what other general courses on Japan offer.

Readings will be provided in class. All readings will be freely accessible online.

Assessment

- 6 Quizzes (including attendance): $6 \times 5 = 30\%$
- 7 50-word fieldtrip reflections (including attendance): $7 \times 5 = 35\%$
- 1 presentation based on a 300-word essay (essay to be submitted in class): 35%