

Insight into Japan

2025

Exploring the Charm of Japan:
Liberal Arts lectures by Experts
from Toyo University

Toyo University is committed to carrying on the vision of its founder, Enryo Inoue, and making the knowledge possessed by the university beneficial to society. As part of this commitment, we offer numerous public lectures and lifelong learning programs. In this course, we will explore various topics related to Japan, including Japanese culture, economy, and social issues, delivered by experts from Toyo University. Understanding the background of Japanese culture and social issues can also deepen your comprehension of the Japanese language. Whether you are new to Japanese culture, seeking to expand your knowledge, or planning to study or work in Japan, we warmly welcome you to join our courses.



About Inoue Enryo : <https://www.toyo.ac.jp/about/founder/>



COURSE OUTLINE

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| PERIOD | July 12, October 4, December 6, 2025 (JST) |
| FORMAT | Online (Zoom) |
| TARGET | Japanese or Non-Japanese with Japanese language proficiency of N2 (JLPT) or higher |
| LECTURES | 6 lectures※ |
| CAPACITY | 1,000 participants per lecture (first-come-first-served basis) |
| FEE | free |
| APPLICATION PERIOD | June 16, 2025 - December 5, 2025 (JST) |

*Application period varies depending on the course. Please check the website for details.

COURSE APPLICATION Please apply from Toyo Japanese Language Program Website.
URL: <https://toyo-jlp.com>



- ※ You can freely choose to participate in only one lecture or multiple lectures.
- ※ Those who responded to the questionnaire after the lecture will be able to view the materials used in the lecture.
- ※ All applicants will be able to view the lecture video at a later date.
- ※ All participants can download the participation certificate from the website.

LECTURE SCHEDULE

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| 2025/07/12 | 01 | 13:00~14:30 | Language | Naomi TAKAHASHI (Professor, Faculty of Welfare and Social Design, Toyo University) |
| Introduction to the Basics of Honorific Expressions | | | | This course offers a brief introduction to the use of honorific expressions in Japanese. Mastering proper honorifics is essential for enjoying a fulfilling life in Japan and for building positive relationships with Japanese people. |
| 2025/07/12 | 02 | 15:00~16:30 | Urbanism, Architecture & Community | Masahiko SHINOZAKI (Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Toyo University) |
| Tokyo's Universality and Uniqueness: Rethinking Urban Form | | | | Drawing on experiences of townscape preservation and housing surveys in several Asian countries, this lecture reconsiders the design and meaning of Japanese towns and architecture. In today's globalized world, while each country preserves its unique architectural heritage, cities and buildings that look the same across the globe are also emerging. We will reflect on how tradition and modernity coexist, and explore the future of Tokyo's urban and architectural landscape. |
| 2025/10/04 | 03 | 13:00~14:30 | Literature & Arts | Yoshihiro KIKUCHI (Professor, Faculty of Letters, Toyo University) |
| Exploring the Beauty of the Ogura Hyakunin Isshu | | | | Ogura Hyakunin Isshu is one of Japan's most celebrated collections of classical waka poetry. Comprising poems mainly about the four seasons and love, it not only reflects the tradition of imperial anthologies, but also conveys universal human emotions across time. In this course, we will explore representative poems from the anthology, appreciate their refined expressions, and deepen our understanding of how these works were formed within the long-standing tradition of Japanese poetry dating back to the Manyōshū. |
| 2025/10/04 | 04 | 15:00~16:30 | International Society & Diplomacy | Chieko NAKABASAMI (Professor, Faculty of International Tourism, Toyo University) |
| Better Communication with Foreign Tourists visiting Japan | | | | The number of foreign tourists visiting Japan is rapidly surpassing pre-COVID levels. While many tourists cannot understand Japanese, tools such as AI translation are proving useful. However, in this era of convenience, warm, human communication in tourism remains essential. In this course, we will examine the current state of multilingual translation tools in Japan, introduce case studies from the past, and explore ways to improve communication with tourists. |
| 2025/12/06 | 05 | 13:00~14:30 | Science & Mathematics | Takashi YOSHINO (Professor, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Toyo University) |
| Edo Culture, Origami Cranes, and Geometry through Historical Texts | | | | This interdisciplinary lecture uses the "origami crane" as a keyword to explore Japanese culture in the Edo period and the modern mathematical field of tiling. The stable society of the Edo period fostered the development of unique cultural practices such as origami. Today, the word "origami" is globally recognized. Through the example of the paper crane, we will experience the connections between Edo-period culture and modern mathematical sciences. |
| 2025/12/06 | 06 | 15:00~16:30 | Culture | Yuko YAGI (Professor, Faculty of Welfare and Social Design, Toyo University) |
| Speaking with the Hands, Seeing the Culture: Linguistic Diversity in Japanese and American Sign Language | | | | Sign language, which involves "speaking with the hands," reflects cultural and social characteristics that differ from spoken language. This lecture introduces the appeal of sign language as a mirror of linguistic and cultural diversity, comparing the structure and expressions of Japanese Sign Language (JSL) and American Sign Language (ASL). We will also touch on how sign language reveals characteristics of Japanese society, the place of Deaf culture, and challenges and hopes toward a more inclusive society. Participants will also try out basic sign language expressions and reflect on communication that transcends words. |

Greetings from the President of Toyo University

Toyo University was originated from a private philosophical school called 'Tetsugakukan' founded in 1887 by Enryo Inoue, a young philosopher who graduated from the university of Tokyo. Our university's founding spirit was based on the idea that 'the foundation of all disciplines lies in philosophy' and emphasized the importance of 'deeply exploring any problem and pursuing the truth' in the pursuit of learning. In addition, Enryo Inoue delivered more than 5,000 lectures throughout Japan to convey the various experiences he gained from his three trips around the world. We inherit his passion and aim to disseminate the intellectual assets of Toyo University, including achievements in Japanese literature, history, society, and the Japanese language, to as many people around the world as possible. We will continue to gradually increase the number of lectures, so please look forward to them.



President of Toyo University: Etsuko Yaguchi