Japan and Nature – Landscape, climate and the people’s attitude

**Period:** January 10, 2019 – April 18, 2019

**Credit:** 3 hours credits (2 slots per week)

**Outline of the course:**

Japanese historically faced various types of natural disasters. The nature, on the other hand, is necessary for our life as we have received a lot of blessings of nature. This course gives you the insights of nature in Japan from the viewpoints of natural and social sciences. In the viewpoint of natural science, the course offers the study of Mt Fuji and the study of mechanism of previously occurred natural disasters. In the viewpoint of social science, the course explains the relationship between Japanese and mountains, modernization and nature in Japan and Great East Earthquake of March 11, 2011.

The course is often run by the discussion style, and holds study tours in order to help the students understand the topics being taught. The study tours will be held during weekends and public holidays.

The target of the course:

To deepen the understanding of natural disasters occurring in Japan and the understanding of how Japanese have lived with nature in history.

1. Introduction
2. Mt Fuji and local Fujis
3. Volcanic disasters
4. Study tour 1: to visit the museum and the outcrops of faults caused Nobi Earthquake in Gifu prefecture
5. Earthquakes and tsunamis – with the discussion time for the study tour 1
6. Study tour 2: to visit Kyoto City Disaster Prevention Center in Kyoto to learn how to protect yourself during disasters
7. Typhoons and floods – with the discussion time for the study tour 2
8. Sudden downpours, flood disasters in urban areas and debris flows
9. Japanese and mountains
10. Study tour 3: to visit Han-do-san mountain in Koka city, Shiga
11. Modernization and nature in Japan – with the discussion time for the study tour 3
12. Global environmental issues and the role of Japan
13. Great Eastern Earthquake of 2011 and recovery policies
14. Final presentation

**Assessment:** Class attendance and engagement 30%, Essay 30%, Final presentation 40%