This course explores the history and role of women in Japan, beginning with a brief examination of the women writers of Heian, Japan and their influence on Japanese art and literature, followed by their role in medieval and military Japan before considering contemporary or postwar Japan.

The objectives are to:

- Better appreciate the contributions of Japanese women to their history and culture.
- See how Japanese women have addressed the issues of feminism, work and family life.
- Compare the situations and choices of Japanese women in facing the kinds of challenges faced by women everywhere.
- Dispel certain simplified notions (stereotypes) concerning “Japanese women.”

Journalist-turned-politician Yuriko Koike in an interview with Chu Ching, a reporter from Lianhe Zaobao.