JPN 3500
JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY
Fall 2012
MWF 2:00-2:50 pm
DM 193

Instructor: Masako Kubota
Office Hours: by appointment
Email: makubota@fiu.edu

COURSE TEXT BOOKS:
ISBN 0-8248-2152-1
Additional readings will be provided by instructor on Moodle.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:
This course will examine Japan, focusing on the culture, societal life of people and the geography of Japan. A multi-perspective approach will be used to examine during the semester including: class and gender, and samurai way of philosophy, and the effects of modernization and globalization. Students will explore not only the traditional art including Nô play, Kabuki, and Bunraku, but also current events and contemporary social concerns. This will be highlighted using case studies and a current events journal to understand, analyze and evaluate contemporary social issues in Japan. Students will examine on local, global, international and intercultural levels and encourage engagement in problem solving.

GLOBAL LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES:
By the end of the semester, students should demonstrate global awareness, global perspective and global engagement through their ability to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of globalization and diverse aspects of Japanese culture. (Global Awareness)
2. Conduct a multi-perspective analysis of contemporary social issues of Japan, as well as some historical events. (Global Perspective)
3. Demonstrate willingness to address contemporary issues in Japan by making suggested plans of action. (Global Engagement)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The class format will include lecture, film and in class group discussions. There will be a
heavy emphasis on class room discussions, so students must be prepared for every class
meeting. The discussions are meant to take the lecture material to a more critical level,
involving students to generate their own questions to be analyzed during class.

Each student is expected to complete three in class exams, one-page five current event
journals, in class presentation of discussion leading, group study on Samurai way of life, and
PowerPoint presentation about Japanese soft power. PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will take
off points if the above writing assignment requirements are not adhered to. The current event
journal will need to be submitted through Moodle Turnitin.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT

I. IN CLASS EXAMS
There will be three exams in this course. The format will include multiple choices, matching,
true or false and short answers. Test questions will be derived from lecture, class discussion
and films. Tests cannot be made up. If an emergency arises, it is imperative that you contact
the instructor BEFORE the test date.

II. CURRENT EVENT JOURNAL (Global Awareness)
This assignment is meant to keep students up to date with current news events regarding
Japanese culture and society. In order to fully understand the impact that Japan has on the rest
of the world today, as well as the impact of globalization on diverse aspects of Japanese
society, each student will collect and comment on one news article per two weeks that relates
to a contemporary issue dealing with Japan and its interrelatedness with the rest of the world.
Recommended news sources are available on Moodle. (There will be five journals to be
submitted.)

For every journal entry, a series of points will need to be addressed that examine the student’s
awareness of local, global, international and intercultural issues that interrelate with Japanese
society. The student will also be expected to comment on each article. More information will
be given about this assignment in the class.

III. GROUP STUDY ON SAMURAI WAY OF LIFE (Global Perspective)
As a small group activity, we divide students into four groups and each group will read
Honor: Samurai Philosophy of Life: The Essential samurai Collection, that introduces three
authors’ books; Miyamoto Musashi, Yamamoto Tsunetomo and Nitobe Inazo. After reading
assigned author’s philosophy, each group will examine and discuss author’s strategy.
Additionally, the fourth group will develop a multi-perspective analysis of gender issues by researching “WOMEN SAMURAI.” The method of presenting has two steps. First of all, these four groups will present their research by PowerPoint. Secondly, at the following class, students examine and discuss the influence of the Samurai Philosophy into the modern Japanese society as well as students’ lives, and the global world.

IV. POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONG (Global Engagement)
Students use Japanese ‘SOFT POWER’ to show its cultural influence. In a virtual situation, students will team up as production organizers and act as producers for the Mura-Okoshi. Along this process, students demonstrate willingness to address contemporary issues in Japan. PowerPoint presentation needs 10 slides maximum and 3-4 pages notes including the abstract and works cited.

The term “soft power” was coined by Joseph Nye and he describes the term as a nation’s ability to attract and persuade cultural attraction to the outside world. Japanese cultural attractions are not only pop culture but also traditional arts, design, and cuisine.


V. DISCUSSION LEADING
Each student will be assigned to be a discussion leader. The discussions are meant to take the reading material to a more critical level, involving students to generate their own questions to be analyzed during class.

COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION
Attendance and group Discussion Class participation 20%
Five Current Event journals 15%
Three exams 45%
PowerPoint presentation 20%

GRADING SCALE:
A 93-100  A- 90-92
B+ 87-89  B 83-86  B- 80-82
C+ 77-79  C 73-76  C- 70-72
D+ 67-69  D 63-66  D- 63-66
F 0-59
COURSE POLICIES:

I. ATTENDANCE and CLASS PARTICIPATION
It is important for students to attend class in order to be successful in this course. If a student arrives later or leaves early it is **BOTH** disruptive to the lecturer and students alike. To alleviate this from happening I will count **ONE** absence for every **TWO** late arrivals or early departures. Class participation is required and is necessary to achieve an “A” in this course. Student input is important and vital to a university education and is meant to challenge students to think deeply and critically, therefore dialogue is highly encouraged. Attendance and class participation will make up **20%** of the course grade.

II. CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
In our increasingly technological world, the classroom is becoming more versatile and inter-active. However, some technological advances pose a threat to the classroom environment and therefore special rules need to be applied to them. **IF** you have a laptop and plan to bring it to class for any reason, you **MUST** be using the computer for classroom note taking or to further the discussion of Japanese Culture and Society during class. Cell phones are a major distraction and usually improperly used during classroom time. Please **SILENT** all phones prior to entering the classroom and refrain from using them **FOR ANY REASON**. This would include text messaging, receiving phone calls, browsing internet, and gaming.

**IF** the instructor sees that above rules are broken even by one student, **ALL** privileges will be revoked for the ENTIRE class and everyone’s class participation grade will suffer. Let us not allow a few bad apples to spoil the entire bundle. Take this as a WARNING!

III. PLAGIARISM
Plagiarism is defined as “literally theft,” and will **NOT** be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of may include:

1. A written work that is **ENTIRELY** stolen from another source
2. Using quotations from source without proper citation
3. Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation

Students are expected to **UNDERSTAND** the definition of plagiarism. To view the University Code of Academic Integrity please visit

http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm

When all else fails; **ASK** the instructor for help. If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.

**IF A STUDENT IS CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED**
MATERIALS (INCLUDING THE WORK OF CLASSMATES OR FRIENDS) YOU WILL RECEIVE A (0) FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.

IV. LATE PAPERS
Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor and is therefore, highly discouraged.

CLASS SCHEDULE

| Week 1  | 8/20-8/24 | Getting to know one another  
Getting to know Japanese Geography and facts about Japan, and Japanese language  
*Japanese Culture*, Chapter 1, "The Emergence of Japanese Civilization."  
|-------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Week 2  | 8/27-8/31 | 8/27: #1 Journal is due  
*Modern Japanese Culture*, Chapter 8, "Religious Culture."  
| Week 3  | 9/03-9/07 | 9/03: Labor Day Holiday  
*Japanese Culture*, Chapter 3, "The Court at its Zenith." (p.48-76)  
*Japanese Culture*, Chapter 4, "The Advent of a New Age." (p.49-90) |
| Week 4  | 9/10-9/14 | 9/10: #2 Journal is due  
*Japanese Culture*, Chapter 5, "The canons of Medieval Taste." (p.91-139)  
9/14: Group study on Samurai way of life/ Abstract is due |
“Fushi Kaden” (p.61-139)  
Film |
| Week 6  | 9/24-9/28 | 9/24: #3 Journal is due  
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<th>Week 7</th>
<th>10/01</th>
<th>Film</th>
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<td>10/03</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>10/05</td>
<td>First Exam</td>
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>10/08-10/12</th>
<th>10/08: #4 Journal is due</th>
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<td>What is soft Power</td>
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<td>What is Machi-Okoshi</td>
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<td><strong>Soft Power</strong></td>
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>10/15-10/19</th>
<th><em>Japanese Culture</em>, Chapter 8, &quot;Heterodox Trends.&quot; (p.205-234)</th>
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<td><em>Japanese Culture</em>, Chapter 9, &quot;Encounter with the West.&quot; (p.235-270)</td>
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<th>10/22</th>
<th>Film</th>
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<td>10/24</td>
<td>Second Exam Review</td>
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<td>10/26</td>
<td>Second Exam</td>
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<th>Week 11</th>
<th>10/29-11/02</th>
<th>10/29: #5 Journal is due</th>
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<td><em>Japanese Culture</em>, Chapter 11, &quot;Culture in the Present Age.&quot; (p.304-352)</td>
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<th>Week 12</th>
<th>11/05-11/09</th>
<th>Japanese Ethnicity</th>
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<td><em>Modern Japanese Culture/ Buraku Culture</em> (p.182-198), Ainu Culture</td>
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<td>Film: Rabbit in the Moon</td>
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<th>Week 13</th>
<th>11/14-11/16</th>
<th>11/12: Veterans day Holiday</th>
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<td>PowerPoint presentation (4 groups)</td>
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<th>Week 14</th>
<th>11/19-11/21</th>
<th>11/23: Thanksgiving Holiday</th>
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<td>PowerPoint presentation (4 groups)</td>
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<td>11/23: Thanksgiving Holiday</td>
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<td>PowerPoint note is due on 11/21</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th>11/26-11/28</th>
<th>PowerPoint presentation (4 groups)</th>
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<td>11/30 Review</td>
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<th>Week 16</th>
<th>Final week</th>
<th>Final Exam: 12/05 12:00-2:00 DM 193</th>
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(Above schedule is subject to change)