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NOTE: The instructor reserves the right to change this syllabus!

JAPANESE SOCIETY IN GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

SYD 4451/ASN 3931

Spring Semester 2013
Monday-Wednesday 5-6:15 PM
Room: Charles Perry (PC) 441

Instructor:
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Office Hours and Location:
3-4 PM Monday- Wednesday, SIPA 323
(email for other appointments)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an introduction to contemporary Japanese society from a global perspective. We focus primarily on the post-bubble era (1990- present) and emphasize issues that are prominent in Japanese society today, but also broadly cover the social foundations of post World War II development. We explore pressing questions facing Japanese citizens, communities, governments, and scholars. Instead of studying Japan as an isolated and homogeneous island nation, we examine its position in broader global society, sometimes taking a transnational and/or comparative perspective, especially in relation to American society, if not always in readings then in lectures and discussion. We address the following broad questions important to understanding contemporary Japanese society. What is and is not unique about Japanese society and culture? What social structures supported the period of rapid economic growth? What does the metaphor of the 'economic miracle' obscure about postwar Japanese society? To what extent are inequality and poverty growing in Japan since the burst of the bubble economy? Who is being affected by growth of inequality and poverty? How are gender relations being transformed in Japan? To what extent is Japan becoming more multicultural? What are the experiences of immigrant communities in Japan? How is 'deviance' socially constructed in Japan? How are communities and social movement organizations addressing social problems in Japan? What is the nature of the recent emphasis on 'cool Japan' and 'soft power' as means to ensure and expand the country's global stature? How are all of these issues affected by the 3/11 triple disasters?

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Gain in-depth knowledge of social issues and dynamics in contemporary Japan.
- Be able to critique “essentializing” descriptions of Japanese and other cultures and societies.
- Understand how processes of globalization are affecting contemporary Japan.
- Understand Japan’s position and role in global society.
- Be able to reflect on how Japan’s response to social problems related to globalization can shed light on experiences of other advanced capitalist countries.

GLOBAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Global awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of how processes of economic, demographic, and cultural globalization interact with social institutions and conditions in contemporary Japan.
 - Assessment: Student-led discussions will be assessed using a global learning awareness matrix to identify the extent to which the interrelatedness of multilevel causes of social issues in Japan are discussed.
- Global perspective: Students will be able to analyze how global and local social contexts interact to generate social problems in contemporary Japan.
 - Assessment: Individual term papers will be examined to assess the extent to which they adjudicate between different theoretical perspectives on a social issue. A global learning perspective rubric will be applied to these assignments.
- Global engagement: Students will be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of possible solutions to social problems related to globalization in contemporary Japan.
 - Assessment: Individual term papers will also be assessed according to the extent to which potential solutions to social problems are explored in the paper.

REQUIRED TEXT

Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). An Introduction to Japanese Society, 3rd Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Additional mandatory readings providing varying perspectives on weekly topics are included in the weekly schedule below and will be available on-line.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Participation

Attendance at each class meeting from start to finish is required. I will be taking attendance either at the beginning of lecture and/or at the end of class. Attendance does not simply mean showing up, but showing up *prepared*. Thus, you are to do all assigned readings (lecture and discussion) *prior* to class. You should also be prepared to participate in discussions in class and/or to ask and answer questions about the material. Attendance will be worth one half of your participation grade.

Students participating in University-sanctioned events (athletes, debaters, musicians, etc.) must inform me in advance of any event that will conflict with class time and make up work they miss. Documentation must also be submitted before the event.

You will be required to lead (possibly with a partner, depending upon enrollment) one or two of the approximately 30 minute class discussions based on one of the “discussion readings” (indicated by **DR** below). At the beginning of the course, you will sign up for the session for which you will be responsible by emailing me your preference. Sessions will be assigned on a first-emailed, first-served basis. *You must email me your preference by midnight Friday, January 11th*. I will post the schedule on Moodle and you will be responsible for remembering when you are assigned. When leading discussion, you will need to come up with questions about or issues in the readings that will stimulate ideas, discussion, and debate among your peers about causes and solutions for important social problems. *Your discussion must connect the social issue in Japan that is the focus of the reading with processes of globalization.* You can be creative with this (using quizzes, games, visuals, etc.) but remember, this is a discussion, not a presentation. One option is to have the group discuss how a seemingly similar social phenomenon in the US or another country is actually similar or different, or related or unrelated to the topic of the reading. Some summary and clarification of the material is good, but the real trick is to stimulate discussion, something not as easy as it may seem. You can consult me about how to do this in class, during office hours, or via email and, of course, I will be there to help keep things going. As the difficulty in stimulating discussion will vary according to the readings and the moods of classmates on any particular date, you will be evaluated more for effort than the actual discussion. Leadership of discussion will be worth one half of your participation grade.

Reading Quizzes

Throughout the semester, there will be at least five unannounced quizzes on any reading, but also covering previous lecture materials. The purpose of these quizzes is to ensure that you are keeping up with and understanding the readings and lectures. The quizzes will not require you to memorize minute details from the readings, but will be focused on what the readings discuss about how processes of economic, demographic, and cultural globalization interact with social institutions in contemporary Japan. These will include about five simple, multiple choice or true/false questions. You will not have an opportunity to make up these quizzes. You will be able to drop your lowest grade on these quizzes.

I also reserve the right to have pop quizzes on any reading, so stay on top of them!

Term Paper and Assignments:

The term paper will be a social science literature review paper developed around a topic of your interest. Your paper will be focused on Japan, but will address a social issue of global import (for example, immigration, gender, inequality, etc.). You will use at least 5 scholarly sources to develop a theoretically organized review of major research on a specific research question. Your paper is to be around 2,000 to 3,000 words, not including references. There will be the following assignments (dates are below in the class schedule) that will guide you through completion of the

paper. Some assignments will be done in class, but most will involve submitting material via Moodle. Late assignments will not be accepted.

- a) self-introduction
- b) library exercise
- c) sociological topic and question
- d) literature review references 1st draft (peer review)
- e) literature review references 2nd draft
- f) theoretical perspectives
- g) evidence/support
- h) literature review 1st draft (peer review)
- i) 2nd draft (to be submitted on-line)

I will provide a more complete explanation of the paper and these assignments early in the course.

Presentation

All students will be giving a brief presentation (10 minutes) on their term paper. You can use presentation software (Powerpoint, Keynote, etc.) and other visual aids. I will go over some ways to make effective presentations in class.

Grading

Term Paper	30
Reading Quizzes	30
Paper Presentation	20
Term Paper Assignments	10
Participation	10
<hr/> TOTAL	100 points

LATE WORK/INCOMPLETE

Late work/incompletes without legitimate and documented excuses will not be allowed.

CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

DO NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!

Cheating and plagiarism will be sought out and eliminated at its root with full force. Please consult the section on “Academic Misconduct” in the annual *Student Handbook* for definitions of both. I will be submitting all papers to Turnitin.com to identify cases of plagiarism (direct copying of text from books, on-line resources, etc. without proper citation, submitting papers from other courses). In all cases of cheating and plagiarism, the severest of penalties allowed by university policy (up to and including expulsion) may be pursued.

COURSE OUTLINE

IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!

Readings marked **(LR)** are those on which I will base my in-class lectures. I will not repeat what is covered in these readings, but highlight certain points and spend most of the time elaborating on central ideas with other materials. These will be covered on Mondays. Readings marked **(DR)** are those that we will base our classroom discussion around (those that students will lead) and will be covered on Thursdays. **(GR)** refers to readings that the graduate students are assigned, which will generally be covered on Thursdays. Those marked **(RR)** are not assigned but might be good references for your course project if you are writing on that particular topic.

Jan. 7th, Week 1: Introduction to the Course

In-class film screening: *Kamikaze Girls* (下妻物語), 2005 (on-line assignment)

Term paper assignment A, “Introducing Yourself” (Be sure to post a brief introduction in the folder under the discussions tab on the Moodle site.)

Jan. 14th, Week 2: Nihonjinron-- (The Myth of) Japanese Uniqueness

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). “The Japan Phenomenon and the Social Sciences,” Chapter 1 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(GR) Fowler, Edward (1996). “Prologue,” and “Setting,” (pp. 1-51) in San’ya Blues: Laboring Life in Contemporary Tokyo.

(RR) Befu, Harumi (2001). Hegemony of Homogeneity: An Anthropological Analysis of Nihonjinron. Trans Pacific Press.

JAN. 21st MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY!!!

Jan. 23th, Week 3: Library Exercise (term paper assignment B) Meet in GL 280

Jan. 28th, Week 4: Work, the Miracle, and the Underbelly

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). “Varieties in Work and Labor,” and “Geographical and Generational Variations,” Chapters 3 & 4 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

Distribute term paper assignment

(DR) Nakane, Chie (1973). Chapter 1 (pp. 1-22) of Japanese Society. Penguin.

(GR) Fowler, Edward (1996). “Lives,” and “Activism,” (pp. 53-150) in San’ya Blues: Laboring Life in Contemporary Tokyo.

Feb. 4th, Week 5: Education, the Burst of the Bubble, and Growing Instability in Japan

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). "Diversity and Unity in Education," Chapter 5 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Slater, David H. (2010). "The Making of Japan's New Working Class: 'Freeters' and the Progression From Middle School to the Labor Market," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*.

Term paper assignment C, "Sociological Topic & Question"

(GR) Fowler, Edward (1996). "Rites," "Work," and "Epilogue," (pp.151-230) in San'ya Blues: Laboring Life in Contemporary Tokyo.

(RR) Schoppa, Leonard (2006). Race for the Exits: The Unraveling of Japan's System of Social Protection.

Feb. 11th, Week 6: Gender, Work, and Family Part 1

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). "Gender Stratification and the Family System," Chapter 6 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Allison, Anne (1994). "A Type of Place," "A Type of Routine," "A Type of Woman," Chapters 1-3 (pp. 33-76) in Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club. University of Chicago Press.

Term paper assignment D, "Literature Review References 1st Draft"

(GR) Allison, Anne (1999). "Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunch-box as Ideological State Apparatus," *Anthropological Quarterly* 64(4):195-208.

(RR) Raymo, James M. and Miho Iwasawa (2005). "Marriage Market Mismatches in Japan: An Alternative View of the Relationship between Women's Education and Marriage," *American Sociological Review* 70 (5): 801-822.

(RR) North, Scott (2009). "Negotiating What's 'Natural': Persistent Domestic Gender Role Inequality in Japan," *Social Science Japan Journal* 12(1):23-44.

Feb. 18th, Week 7: Gender, Work, and Family Part 2

NO LECTURE READING

(DR) Chambers, Veronica (2007). Chapter 1 (pp.1-30), "Love Japanese Style," Chapter 5 (pp. 116-150), and "Revolution at Bullet Train Speed" (pp.233-273) from Kickboxing Geishas: How Modern Japanese Women are Changing Their Nation. Free Press.

Term paper assignment E, "Literature Review References 2nd Draft"

(GR) Nemoto, Kumiko "Postponed Marriage," *Gender & Society* 22(2):219-237.

(RR) Chan, Jennifer (Ed.) (2008). "Part VI: Gender," (pp.211-248) in Another Japan is Possible: New Social Movements and Global Citizenship Education. Stanford University Press.

(RR) Ogasawara, Yuko (1998). Office Ladies and Salaried Men: Power, Gender, and Work in Japanese Companies. University of California Press.

(RR) Kelsky, Karen (2001). Women on the Verge: Japanese Women, Western Dreams. Duke University Press.

(RR) Yamada, Kazuyo (2009). "Past and Present Constraints on Labor Movements for Gender Equality in Japan," *Social Science Japan Journal* 12(2):195-209.

Feb. 25th, Week 8: Poverty and Welfare in Japan

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). "Class and Stratification: an Overview," Chapter 2 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Gill, Tom (2012). "Failed Manhood on the Streets of Urban Japan: The Meanings of Self-Reliance for Homeless Men," *The Asia-Pacific Journal*. 10:1 No 2.

(GR) Aoki, Osamu and Deborah McDowell Aoki (2005). "Invisible Poverty in Japan: Case Studies and Realities of Single Mothers," *Journal of Poverty* 9(1):1-21.

(RR) Abe, Aya K. (2010). "Social Exclusion and Earlier Disadvantages: An Empirical Study of Poverty and Social Exclusion in Japan," *Social Science Japan Journal* 13(1):5-30.

(RR) Aoki, Hideo (2006). Japan's Underclass: Day Laborers and the Homeless. Trans Pacific Press.

(RR) Gill, Tom (2001). Men of Uncertainty: The Social Organization of Day Laborers in Contemporary Japan. SUNY Press.

(RR) Margolis, Abby (2008). "Subversive Accommodations: Doing Homeless in Tokyo's Ueno Park," pp. 351-372 in A.L. Beier and Paul Ocobock (Eds.) Cast Out: Vagrancy and Homelessness in Global and Historical Perspective. Ohio University Press.

(RR) Iwata, Masami and Akihiko Nishizawa (2008). Poverty and Welfare in Japan. Trans Pacific Press.

Mar. 4th, Week 9: Ethnicity and Status in Japan

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). "Minority Groups: Ethnicity and Discrimination," Chapter 7 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Suzuki, David and Keibo Oiwa (1999). "Shared Blood, Different Futures," Chapter 6 (pp.125-158) in The Other Japan: Voices Beyond the Mainstream. Fulcrum Publishing.

Term paper assignment F, "Theoretical Perspectives"

(GR) Kim, Bumsoo (2008). "Bringing Class Back In: The Changing Basis of Inequality and the Korean Minority in Japan," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 31(5):871-898.

(RR) Lie, John (2001). Multiethnic Japan. Harvard University Press.

(RR) Hein, Laura and Mark Selden (2003). Island of Discontent: Okinawan Responses to Japanese and American Power. Rowman and Littlefield.

(RR) Shin, Hwaji (2010). "Colonial Legacy of Ethno-racial Inequality in Japan," *Theoretical Sociology* 39:327-342.

(RR) Mizuuchi, Toshio and Hong Gyu Jeon (2010). "The new mode of urban renewal for the former outcaste minority people and areas in Japan," *City, Culture, and Society*, a special supplement of the journal *Cities* 27 (Supplement 1):S25-S34.

MAR. 11-MAR. 16 SPRING BREAK!!!

Mar. 18th, Week 10: Migration to and from Japan

NO LECTURE READING

(DR) Roth, Joshua (2002). "Introduction" and "Accidents, Apologies, and Compensation," "Internationalization and the Hamamatsu Kite Festival," Chapters 1 and 4 (1-19, 64-91) in Brokered Homeland: Japanese Brazilian Migrants in Japan. Cornell University Press.

(GR) Piquero-Ballecas, Maria Rosario (2009). "Global Householding and Care Networks: Filipino Women in Japan," *Asian and Pacific Migration Journal* 18(1):77-99.

(RR) Tsuda, Takeyuki (2001). "When Identities Become Modern: Japanese Immigrants in Brazil and the Global Contextualization of Identity," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 24:412-432.

Mar. 25th, Week 11: Crime and Deviance in Japan

(LR) Ellis, Thomas and Koichi Hamai (2007). "Crime and Punishment in Japan," *Japan Focus* January 29.

(DR) Furlong, Andy (2008). "The Japanese Hikikomori Phenomenon: Acute Social Withdrawal Among Young People," *The Sociological Review* 56(2):309-325.

Term paper assignment G, "Evidence/Support"

(GR) Miller, Alan and Tuukka Toivonen (2010) "To Discipline or Accommodate? On the Rehabilitation of Japanese 'Problem Youth,'" *The Asia Pacific Journal*.

(RR) Yoder, Robert Stuart (2004). Youth Deviance in Japan: Class Reproduction of Non-Conformity. Trans Pacific Press.

(RR) Leheny, David (2006). Think Global, Fear Local: Sex, Violence, and Anxiety in Contemporary Japan. Cornell University Press.

(RR) Kawanishi, Yuko (2010). Mental Health Challenges Facing Contemporary Japanese Society, The Lonely People. Global Oriental.

Apr. 1st, Week 12: Social Movements

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2003). "Collusion and Competition in the Establishment," Chapter 8 (pp.212-243) in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Chan, Jennifer (Ed.) (2008). "Part VIII: Youth Groups," (pp.313-336) in Another Japan is Possible: New Social Movements and Global Citizenship Education. Stanford University Press.

(GR) Tsutsui, Kiyoteru and Hwa-Ji Shin (2008). "Global Norms, Local Activism, and Social Movement Outcomes: Global Human Rights and Resident Koreans in Japan." *Social Problems* 55(3):391-418.

(RR) Hasegawa, Miki (2006). We Are Not Garbage! The Homeless Movement in Tokyo, 1994-2002. Routledge.

(RR) Schwartz, Frank J. and Susan J. Pharr, Eds. (2003). The State of Civil Society in Japan. Cambridge University Press.

(RR) Turner, Christena (1995). Japanese Workers in Protest. University of California Press.

(RR) Hasegawa, Koichi, Chika Shinohara, and Jeffrey Broadbent (2007). "The Effect of 'Social Expectation' on the Development of Civil Society in Japan." *Journal of Civil Society* 3(2): 179-203.

(RR) Avenell, Simon A. (2010). "Facilitating Spontaneity: The State and Independent Volunteering in Contemporary Japan," *Social Science Japan Journal* 13(1):69-93.

Apr. 8th, Week 13: Cool Japan Part I

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). "Popular Culture and Everyday Life," Chapter 9 (pp.244-270) in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Allison, Anne (2006). "Enchanted Commodities," Chapter 1 (pp.1-34) in Millennial Monsters: Japanese Toys and The Global Imagination. Berkeley: University of California Press.

In class assignment H, "Literature Review 1st Draft"

(GR) Napier, Susan J. (2007) "Breaking the Rules: Miyazakiworld and the MML," and "Anime Nation: Conventions, Cosplay, and Commodities," Chapters 7 and 8 in From Impression to Anime: Japan as Fantasy and Fan Culture in the Mind of the West. Palgrave Macmillan.

(RR) Frederick, Jim (2003). "What's Right with Japan?" and other articles on various aspects of "Cool Japan" at: http://www.time.com/time/asia/2003/cool_japan/archive.html.

Apr. 15th, Week 14: Cool Japan, Part II

(LR) Sugimoto, Yoshio (2010). "Friendly Authoritarianism," Chapter 10 in An Introduction to Japanese Society.

(DR) Condry, Ian (2006). Introduction and "Yellow B-Boys, Black Culture, and the Elvis Effect," Chapter 1 in Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization. Duke University Press.

In class assignment I, "Literature Review 2nd Draft"

(GR) Azuma, Hiroki (2009). Otaku: Japan's Database Animals. University of Minnesota Press.

(RR) Kinsella, Sharon (2000). Adult Manga: Culture and Power in Contemporary Japanese Society. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press.

(RR) Sterling, Marvin (2010). Babylon East: Performing Dancehall, Roots Reggae, and Rastafari in Japan. Duke University Press.

Apr. 22nd, Week 15: Student Presentations

Apr. 29th, Finals Week: Student Presentations

Term paper due date TBD

Do not copy