

Miyazaki International College
 Course Syllabus
 Spring 2018

Course Title (Credits)	A & C 203 Japanese Popular Culture (3 credits)
Course Designation for TC	
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Debra J Occhi, PhD
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Language Teacher	
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Office hours	

Course Description:

A theoretical examination of how popular culture is used to construct identity within Japanese society. The course will examine Japanese popular culture through various perspectives such as behaviors and consumption practices, historical issues, aesthetics, and communication.

Course Goals/Objectives:

In preparation for study abroad, students will critically consider Japanese popular culture and their place therein. This course will help students...

with content:

- to better understand Japanese popular culture and the idea of culture in general
- to develop their awareness of aesthetics, communication, and meaning in cultural practices
- to become familiar with different kinds of information sources about popular culture
- to build their understanding of vocabulary and concepts related to Japanese society and culture

with English:

- to express your yourself with confidence, fluency and accuracy in speaking and writing
- to understand authentic English audio/visual and written materials
- to strengthen skills in writing cohesive multi-paragraph essays
- to acquire general academic and social science vocabulary and high frequency words
- to broaden your understanding of natural expressions in academic discourse
- to analyse authentic language and develop skills for comprehension of challenging material

with study skills and research:

- to develop skills in using the Internet as a source of information about cultural resources
- to develop time management and organization skills
- to develop skills in summarizing, paraphrasing, and synthesizing information from multiple sources
- to practice accurate documentation of sources
- to develop independent learning skills

with thinking:

- to develop critical skills in understanding visual media
- to develop critical skills in evaluating online sources
- to recognize and understand divergent views on the same question
- to understand how word choice in English can be used to shape meaning

Tentative Course Schedule

Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	Course introduction	Course description; syllabus; activating background knowledge
2	Music in Japan	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Japanese music overseas, Visual bands
3	Music in Japan	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Manufactured bands, Hip-hop
4	Music in Japan	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Vocaloid
5	Fashion in Japan	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Kogyaru, Youth fashion
6	Fashion in Japan	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Ginza girls, the Japanese and fashion
7	Fashion in Japan	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Japanese fashion designers, foreign models in Japan
8	Japanese tribes (Gothic Lolita, Otaku, Freeters, NEETs)	Reading; vocabulary building; discussing sub-cultures
9	Hybridity and hybridism	Discussion on hybrid cultural entities; vocabulary building; reading
10	Hybridity and hybridism	Reading; applying key concepts to other cultural entities
11	Hybridity and hybridism (this topic will continue throughout the course)	Review of key concepts; language work: phraseology; planning for academic writing
12	Makiko's New World	Activating background knowledge; vocabulary

		building; content themes: Makiko Nakano
13	Makiko's New World	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Makiko's diary, New Urban Lifestyles
14	Makiko's New World	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Diaries and women's lives, the Nakano house
15	Makiko's New World	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Signs of continuity, the tricky triangle
16	Makiko's New World	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: the Nakao family, western food
17	Makiko's New World	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: dragonfly in heaven, the Nakano's later life
18	Makiko's New World	Discussion, content themes: social classes in the Meiji
19	Describing trends in Japan	Language work: describing changes over time; reading
20	Describing trends in Japan	Language work: describing parts to whole data
21	Describing trends in Japan	Language work: describing comparison data
22	Sumo Story	Activating background knowledge; vocabulary building; content themes: opinions of sumo, what is sumo?
23	Sumo Story	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Chohachi, sumo and religion
24	Sumo Story	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: sumo and religion, yobidashi, sumo rankings
25	Sumo Story	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: winning in sumo, history of sumo, sumo in the Meiji
26	Sumo Story	Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: modernization of sumo, challenges for sumo, foreign wrestlers
27	Final project	Introduction to final project
28	Final project	Preparation for final project
29	Final project	Preparation for final project
30	Final project	Presentation of final projects
	Finals	

Required Materials:

In this course, you will need the following materials:

- Writing paper and a file
- Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters
- A bilingual dictionary
- A two-ring binder

There is no set textbook for this course. However, you will receive many handouts, so it is important that you have a binder just for this course.

Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)

Attendance:

Students must attend class in order to benefit from this course and in order to contribute effectively to group work. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences will be required to withdraw from the course. Arriving late 3 times will count as one absence.

Participation:

Participation means coming to class prepared and on time, taking part in all class activities, listening to others and taking part in discussions. This class will be built around participation individually and as a member of pairs or groups. Missing class (lateness or absence) will result in deductions in the participation grade.

Plagiarism and Intellectual Honesty

Plagiarism is representing some else's words, ideas, or images-as your own. It is a very serious error, and plagiarized work is not accepted in this course. Anyone who submits plagiarized work will receive an F-grade for that assignment.

Class Preparation and Review

Students are expected to spend **at least** one hour preparing for every hour of class, and one hour reviewing and doing homework.

After every lesson, you should review the class handouts and your notes to make sure you understand.

Grades and Grading

Participation 25%

Homework 25%

Projects 25%

Comprehensive final examination 25%

Notes: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed. In principle, graded work will be returned within two weeks of submission with feedback. Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objectives:

Diploma Policy Objectives (School of International Liberal Arts)

1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)
2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations
3. The ability to identify and solve problems
4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English
5. Proficiency in the use of information technology

Overall Course Grading Rubric

Grade	F	D	C	B	A
Criteria	Failure to meet the course standards	Below average performance	Average performance; met all course standards	Better than average performance; met all course standards	Excellent performance; surpassed course standards