

Miyazaki International College
Course Syllabus
Spring 2018

Course Title (Credits)	SOC309/ASA385 Japanese Society (3 credits)
Course Designation for TC	
Content Teacher	
Instructor	Debra Occhi, PhD
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Office/Ext	2-206
Office hours	MW 12:30 – 2:00
Language Teacher	
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Course Description:		
Examines traditions, social change, and the significance of modernization in Japan, and explores the Japanese and non-Japanese discourses of the Japanese cultural identity in transition.		
Course Goals/Objectives:		
This course examines issues in contemporary Japanese society through a social-scientific approach, exploring descriptive, interpretive, and evaluative stances towards qualitative and quantitative data. We will consider a variety of resources to analyze Japanese society and culture in context of prevailing ideologies. No previous experience with Japan is required; however, aspects of personal experience may lend insight to our inquiry. To aid cultivation of students' sociological imagination and perspective, we may include accounts of current events.		
Tentative Course Schedule		
Day	Topic	Content/Activities
1	Introduction	Introduction to course with Syllabus, background knowledge assessment activity
2	“	Interactive review: social theory, language forms
3	“The Japan Phenomenon and the Social Sciences”	Interactive lecture, discussion, pair/share activity comparing data to predictions
4	“Class and Stratification: An Overview”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
5	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
6	“Geographical & Generational Variation”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity

7	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
8	Study day	Review with q/a
9	Summary discussion	Pair/share, group review/summary
10	First exam and intro	Exam, introduction to next section
11	“Forms of Work in Cultural Capitalism”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
12	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
13	“Diversity and Unity in Education”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
14	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
15	“Gender Stratification and the Family System”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
16	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
17	Review	Review with q/a
18	Second exam and intro	Exam, introduction to next section
19	“‘Japaneseness’, Ethnicity, and Minority Groups”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
20	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
21	“Collusion and Competition in the Establishment”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
22	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
23	“Popular Culture and Everyday Life”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
24	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
25	“Civil Society and Friendly Authoritarianism”	Interactive lecture, discussion, activity
26	“	student presentations, discussion, evaluation
27	Third exam and intro	Exam, introduction to next section
28	“Future directions”	Journal review, creative application of materials studied in individual writing
29	Summary discussion	Pair/share, group review/summary
30	Study day	Review with q/a
	Finals	

Required Materials:
Paper and pencil or pen are required for note taking along with a binder or file to store these and other papers. Readings are stored on the course Moodle; students will need internet access and a tablet or PC (CCR will be used as available). Students may find it necessary to find follow-up information to the news articles posted there for their presentations and must use sources approved by the instructor.
Course Policies (Attendance, etc.)
<p>Expectations: Students must actively participate in class in order to contribute effectively to group work and to benefit from this course. Students with more than 3 unexcused absences may be required to withdraw from the course. Missing class (lateness or absence) will result in deductions in the participation grade. Excessive lateness or absence that affects your ability to meet your class responsibilities may cause you to be required to withdraw from the course. Lack of participation will negatively affect grades.</p> <p>Participation: Participation means coming to class prepared and on time, taking part in all class activities and assignments, listening to others and taking part in discussions. This class will be built around participation individually and as a member of pairs or groups. Students whose absences are excused must provide extra written work to make up for lost time in class interaction. You must keep presentation teammates informed if you will be absent so that they may work effectively without you. If you miss the presentation, you must do makeup work.</p> <p>Plagiarism and Intellectual Honesty: Plagiarism is representing some else's work (words, ideas, or images) as your own. It is a very serious error, and plagiarized work is not accepted in this course.</p>
Class Preparation and Review
Students are expected to spend at least one hour preparing for every hour of lesson, and one hour reviewing and doing Homework. Lack of preparation and homework may affect participation.
Grades and Grading
<p>In-class participation 20%</p> <p>Presentation 20%</p> <p>Homework (not including journals) 20%</p> <p>Midterm exams 20%</p> <p>Comprehensive final examination 20%</p>
<p>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:</p> <p>Diploma Policy Objectives (School of International Liberal Arts)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Notes: Socrative quiz code is 2F8BB3F5

Overall Course Grading Rubric (MIC General Rubric applies as well.)

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