Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2020

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| Course Title ( Credits ) | A & C 203 Japanese Popular Culture (3 credits) |
| Course Designation for TC |  |
| Content Teacher |
| Instructor | Debra J Occhi, PhD |
| E-mail address | docchi@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | 2-106 |
| Office hours | T Th 10:30 – 12:00 |
| Language Teacher |
| Instructor |  |
| E-mail address |  |
| Office/Ext |  |
| Office hours |  |

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| 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
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| Tentative Course Schedule |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Course introduction | Course description; syllabus; activating background knowledge |
| 2 | Introduction to Characters | Discussion; vocabulary building; themes: Japanese characters in historical and contemporary context |
| 3 | Hero Characters | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Japanese Hero Characters and story frameworks |
| 4 | Hero Characters | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Japanese Hero Characterizations through language |
| 5 | Hero Characters | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Japanese Hero Characterizations through language |
| 6 | Hero Characters | Presentation of discussions; content themes: Japanese Hero Characterizations through language \* |
| 7 | Metaphors of culture | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Using metaphors to analyze and describe culture |
| 8 | Subcultures (Gothic Lolita, Otaku, Freeters, NEETs) | Reading; vocabulary building; discussing sub-cultures and their social/cultural contexts |
| 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 | Midterm Quiz | Assessment of understanding of course contents\* |
| 20 | Describing trends in Japan | Language work: describing changes over time; reading |
| 21 | Describing trends in Japan | Language work: describing parts to whole data |
| 22 | Describing trends in Japan | Language work: describing comparison data |
| 23 | Sumo Story | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: what is sumo? 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, history, modernization, challenges |
| 26 | Meiwa Denki | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: popular culture reflects context and the individual |
| 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 |
| MEXT guidelines state that 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 and prepare whatever homework assignment is requested for the next class (notebook writing, etc). |
| Grades and Grading |
| Participation 25%Homework 25% \*Projects and quizzes 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 nations3. The ability to identify and solve problems 4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English5. Proficiency in the use of information technology |

Overall Course Grading Rubric

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| 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 |