

Japanese Studies Course A-F

Kyoko Takashi

Japanese Language and Society : Exploring interrelationship of language and Japanese social structure

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

This course will introduce students to the study of the interrelationship of language and social structure in Japan. By examining different language phenomena related to the topics listed below, the students will gain knowledge, not only about the Japanese language and culture, but also about the field of sociolinguistics.

1. Orientation and Guidance (Week 1)
2. Placement Test (for Japanese students only) and Course Mechanics (Week 2)
3. What Is Sociolinguistics? (Week 3)
4. The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis (Week 4)
5. Structure of Japanese Society (Week 5)
6. Communicative Styles in Japanese(Weeks 6-7)
7. Honorifics and Address/Reference Terms (Week 8)
8. Concepts of Politeness : A Universal Construct? (Week 9)
9. Language and Gender (Weeks 10-11)
10. Language Contact (lexical-borrowing ; code-switching) (Weeks 12-13)
11. Student Presentations (Weeks 14-15)

Evaluation

Each student will be required to take a late mid-term examination, and complete a (group) project (comprised of oral presentation and written report). The topic of the project should be decided in consultation with the instructor. Class attendance presupposes completion of assigned readings prior to class.

Set Texts and References

Reading Packet

2008 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course B-F

Douglas K. Wilkerson

Modern Japan through Its Cinema

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

The popularity of movies in industrialized countries is very great, in part because movies often treat problems or issues of importance in those societies. Japan's cinema is no different, and therefore can provide an entertaining and revealing view of modern Japan. This course will combine lectures on modern Japan with viewings of important films, and discussions of the issues raised.

- 1 Guidance on Course Registration
- 2 Introduction
- 3 Individuality and Tradition
- 4 The Funeral
- 5 Education and Success
- 6 Family Games
- 7 Youth in Japan
- 8 Love and Pop
- 9 Blue Spring
- 10 The Underworld of Japan
- 11 Sonatine
- 12 The Samurai Heritage
- 13 Zatōichi
- 14 Taboo
- 15 Final Projects

Evaluation

Grades will be based on participation in class discussions, a class project, performance on a short quiz, and regular attendance. Group projects are encouraged.

Set Texts and References

Class Handouts

Japanese Studies Course C-F

Peter OBrien

Japanese Business (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principle Themes)

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to selected aspects of Japanese business and management practice, beginning with an examination of the role of culture in business. The course then examines the Japanese kaisha or big business organization, and then focuses on developments and contemporary corporate practices in human resource management by examining of the roles of salarymen, part-time and older workers, women, other special groups, and workforce diversity in modern Japanese business and management.

- Class 1: Introduction.
- Classes 2-3: Introduction to Management, Culture and Social Concepts in Japan.
- Classes 4-5: The origins of Japanese Business and Management Practices.
- Classes 6-7: The making and the life of salarymen
- Class 8: Older workers
- Classes 9-10: Women in Japanese business life – “career woman,” “office lady” or “material girl”?
- Classes 11-12: “Freeters,” “hikikomori,” “otaku” and other youth trends in Japan.
- Class 13: Workforce diversity in the contemporary Japanese job market.
- Classes 14-15: Oral presentations on research papers

Evaluation

Participation and concrete contribution will be worth 15%.

A Quiz will be worth 25%.

Oral presentation will be worth 20%.

Research paper will be worth 40%.

Set Texts and References

No specific text is required. Copies of lecture notes and references to specific materials will be provided.

A3 Thinking

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

People, especially Western people, working in the automobile industry can not fully understand why Toyota team associates are so devoted and so loyal to the company. Students could grasp the answer through learning the A3 Thinking and the unique mentor system popular at Toyota.

Key activities and words are as follows:

1. Orientation and Guidance (Week 1)
2. What the A3 is and the background of A3 Thinking (Week 2)
3. How the A3 is used at Toyota (Week 3)
4. Practice to make and polish the A3 (Week 4 and 5)
5. How the A3 grows the Toyota foundation and culture (Week 6)
6. Significance of A3 Thinking and usage (Week 7)
7. A4 is prevailing and explanation of the changing Toyota (Week 8)
8. Mentor System at Toyota (Week 9)
9. Key players at Toyota—Functions of C/E and BUCHO (Week 10)
10. Top Management role and its impact (Week 11)
11. Q & A (Week 12)
12. Tour of Toyota KAIKAN and tour of one of the plants (Week 13)
13. Free discussion for evaluating students (Week 14 and 15)

Evaluation

Class attendance and attitude during free discussion.

Set Texts and References

A3 / Harvard Business Review by John Shook

Japanese Studies Course F-F

Kunihiko Harada

Japanese Pop Cultures through Media: Focus on Commercial and "Uncommercial" (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

How does the media construct the images of Japan in the eyes of non-native speakers of Japanese? And how would they be different once they spend some time in Japan? This class will focus on commercials and public service announcements ("uncommercials") on TV and the Internet in the world and Japan. Students of Japanese and non-Japanese will review those in the selected topics below and compare between those in Japanese and others. Then students of non-Japanese will have chance to ask any questions on the issue and language directly of Japanese students, while Japanese students may do the same of non-Japanese students. Both students will also ask themselves what the author of media is trying to say or hide and whether such media would have been presented differently in different cultures. In the process students will have better understanding of cross-cultural issues and media literacy.

As a project students will be required to make their own commercial or uncommercial. Those will be published on the web for fun and further discussion in class.

Sample topics:

1. Smoking
2. (Gender, race, and other) Discrimination
3. Music TV
4. Corporate Images
5. Internet and Cellular Phone
6. Politics
7. Beverages

Evaluation

- Regular attendance and active class participation are essential.
- For the project the process is as important as the final product.
- Computer skills are not required but will be taught on individual basis.

Set Texts and References

Web sites and handouts

Toward a synergistic collaboration in Japanese business situations (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principle Themes)

The purpose of this course is to help you understand cultural synergy, an area of international management. To meet this purpose, Nancy J. Adler's International Dimensions of Organizational Behavior (fifth edition) will be used and its fifth chapter entitled Managing Multicultural Teams will be read together in class to make a full understanding of important concepts related to this topic. Reading and understanding the chapter is followed by a group project in which some foreign students are expected to form a team with some Japanese students to find out some problems foreigners may face in Japan and try to find a way of solving some or all of those problems. Each team will make a presentation of its project. Thus an effective way of managing multicultural teams will be sought in a practical manner.

The course goes as follows:

- Class 1--Review of cultural synergy
- Class 2--managing a multicultural workforce
- Class 3--Teams: the organization in microcosm
- Class 4--Cultural diversity's impact on teams
- Class 5--Conditions for high-performing multicultural teams
- Class 6--Review (Questions and answers)
- Class 7--Mid-term exam
- Class 8--Preparations for a group project (team-forming, project, method)
- Class 9--Preparations for a group project (information-collection, problem-finding, etc.)
- Class 10--Team activity (1)
- Class 11--Team activity (2)
- Class 12--Presentation (1)
- Class 13--Presentation (2)
- Class 14--Presentation (3)
- Class 15--Presentation (4)

Evaluation

- Attendance (20%)
- Attitude to class (30%)
- Mid-term exam (10%)
- Group project (40%)

Set Texts and References

Handouts

2008 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course H-F

Shigehiko Katsurai

The Japanese Tourism Industry : Destination Development (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principle Themes and Course Objectives)

The course will discuss how a travel destination is planned and promoted, covering the topics on tourist promotion, personnel education, coordination between government and private sectors and ethics issues in tourism etc. Participants are primarily students from overseas but undergraduate students are also encouraged to share ideas and thoughts with international students in class activities.

Key topics:

1. Development and establishment of travel destination
2. Promotion of inbound tourism
3. Players in the travel industry
4. Government and tourism
5. Tourism development as international assistance
6. Others

Evaluation

Student assessment will be primarily based on the final test. Class attendance and participation will also affect to the grade.

Set Texts and References

The instructor will provide materials when necessary.

Japanese Studies Course I-F

Alexander Bennett

***Bushidō*: The Way of the Warrior**

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

Bushido and the warrior culture of Japan are viewed with fascination not only by modern Japanese but by non-Japanese as well. Recently, there have been a number of internationally popular movies about the bushi ethos, such as “The Last Samurai” starring Tom Cruise and Watanabe Ken. This has sparked a major resurgence of interest in the bushi way of life and philosophy. In many ways the reverence of bushidō is glorified nonsense. Some scholars have even described bushi as actually having been no more than ‘valorous butchers’. Nevertheless, people around the world are searching for ethical anchors in this day and age where honour, integrity, bravery, sincerity, and self-sacrifice for the greater good are virtues hidden by the tidal-wave of political scandal, corruption, crime, and greed. Reinterpretations of bushidō are seen as one possible anchor. In this course I will attempt to outline the history and basic components (fact and fiction) of the seemingly timeless, and in some ways borderless, culture of Japan’s bushi warriors.

1. Introduction
2. Formation of the Kamakura Bakufu
3. Bushi of the Warring States Period
4. Bushi of the Tokugawa Period
5. Meiji Period and the Abolishment of the Bushi
6. Inazo Nitobe’s Contribution to the Bushido Cult
7. WWII and Bushido Propaganda
8. Bushi and Death
9. The Martial Arts
10. Bushi Culture Today?
11. Video part 1 (Pending)
12. Video part 2 (Pending)
13. Conclusion

Evaluation

Assessment will be based on the following criteria:

Attendance- 30%

Essay- concerning an aspect of *Bushidō* 70%

Set Texts and References

No textbook is required for this course. Applicable materials will be distributed by the tutor.

Japanese Studies Course J-F

Douglas K. Wilkerson

Japan's Traditional Culture: An Historical Approach (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

This course offers students an overview of Japan's traditional culture and its historical background. It is hoped that this will encourage students to develop a better understanding of contemporary Japan, and serve as an introduction for those interested in further study of the topics touched on here.

The course consists of two distinct, but related, parts: general lectures and cultural activities. The cultural activities include performances (gagaku, tea ceremony), demonstrations (ceramic arts, haiku), and lectures by accomplished artists and scholars. The general lectures (given by the instructor) roughly follow the chronology of Japanese history, and are designed to enhance students' understanding and appreciation of the cultural activities. Attendance at both parts is required, but some of the cultural activities may be scheduled at a time and place different from that of the general lectures. (Please refer to the Schedule of Classes or the Handbook for International Students for times and locations.)

Classes may include the following topics and activities:

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|---|---|----|---|
| 1 | Introduction, Description of Class | 9 | Tea Ceremony: The Way of Tea |
| 2 | Nara: Striving for National Peace and Stability | 10 | Reunification and Edo Culture |
| 3 | Gagaku: Traditional Court Music | 11 | Meiji: Origins of the Modern State |
| 4 | Heian: Enjoying the Peace | 12 | Taishô, Shôwa: Progress toward
the Pacific War |
| 5 | Pottery: Ceramic Arts | 13 | Hiroshima |
| 6 | Heian: Classical Court Culture | 14 | Haiku Poetry |
| 7 | Kamakura: Rise of the Bushi | 15 | Post-War Japan |
| 8 | Muromachi: Daimyô Culture | | |

Evaluation

Grades will be based on course requirements: regular attendance (at all scheduled classes), active participation in cultural activities (when appropriate) and class discussions, and a written report.

Set Texts and References

(Paul Varley's *Japanese Culture* is recommended.)

Mapping Culture: The Development of Nagoya into an Industrial Center

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

This is a fieldwork -based class which seeks to broaden and deepen our understanding of how Nagoya became an important industrial city during the Taisho and Showa Periods of Japan. We will visit various historic sites including the towns of Shirakabe, Chikara & Shumoku, as well as the Shiroyama-Kakuoan area of Nagoya. Students will also be given instructional guidelines on how one may utilize the practice of 'mapping' as a tool for learning, understanding and conceptualizing. Students must submit their own 'map' of a site of their choosing (in either Nagoya or Nisshin) and give a short explicatory presentation on it in the final session of class. Students must attend all fieldwork visits to qualify for a passing mark.

1. Orientation/Guidance for Course Registration (1st class)
2. Fieldwork Visit to Shirakabe, Chikara & Shumoku (2nd, 3rd class)
3. Lecture: Urban Development of Nagoya Into an Industrial Center (4th class)
4. Fieldwork Visit to Shiroyama-Kakuoan (5~7th class)
5. Lecture: How to Map a City (8th~10th class)
6. Workshop Classes (11th~14th class)
7. Class Presentations (15th class)

Evaluation

Class participation

Final project

Set Texts and References

Issues in Global Business in Japan

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

The goal of this course is to continue developing further analysis and understanding of the global business in Japan through discussions stressing cross-cultural and cross-functional variations in the actual business environments. Key issues in establishing a strong business concept will also be covered. Active participation and individual creativity in assignments and presentations in English are always essential. Therefore, the ability to produce a Power-Point presentation is necessary for submitting the project. It is also recommended that students taking this course have successfully completed the introductory version of this course offered during the spring semester. The following areas are the main topics of this course:

1. The General Structure of Japanese Companies
2. The Spirit of Japanese Companies
3. Developing Exceptional Leadership and Team Members
4. Short-Term vs. Long-Term Perspectives
5. Keys in Problem Solving
6. Managing the Change
7. Globally Oriented Concept

Evaluation

Grades will be based on attendance and class participation (20%), in-class assignments (40%), homework and presentations (40%).

Set Texts and Reference

Text: Boye Lafayette De Mente, Business Guide to Japan, Tuttle Publishing, 2006

References: Gary Armstrong and Philip Kotler, *MARKETING AN INTRODUCTION* 8TH ED, Pearson International Edition, 2007

John Case, *OPEN-BOOK MANAGEMENT*, Harper Business, 1995

Peter F. Drucker, *MAMAGEMENT CHALLENGES FOR THE 21ST CENTURY*, Harper Business, 1999

Jeffrey K. Liker and David Meier, *THE TOYATA WAY*, McGraw Hill, 2006

Japan's Economic Power (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

This course will introduce students to broad aspects of Japanese economy of today for the better understanding of where Japan's Economic Power remains in existence. In the study, the economic situation in major powers and regions are analyzed for the comparable reference. Furthermore, it will introduce students to some of business activity of Japanese Industry, focusing on the issues and challenges for the achievement of sustainable growth.

The main topics to be covered in this course is as follows: (subject to change)

1. Analysis of Japan's economic situation from macroeconomic viewpoint :
GDP, Trade, Fiscal Policy, Global Money, M&A, Population, Education
Manufacturing, R&D, Environment, Energy Resource.
2. Comparative study of economic situation in major powers and regions :
USA, EU, Russia, China, India, and ASEAN in the main.
3. Study of business activity of Japanese companies from the sustainable growth perspective :
Environment activity, CSR management, Supply Chain Management, and Globalization in the main.
4. Overview of manufacturing industry of Nagoya and Tokai region, including the factory visit as the case study.
5. Other interesting themes to be taken up on going basis

Evaluation

Attendance, Participation, written research report ,and in-class presentation of paper.

Set Texts and References

No textbook is required for this course. Applicable materials will be distributed by the lecturer.

Japanese Culture and Art (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

The arch-shaped Japanese archipelago can be seen to resemble the cross section of a concave mirror or a huge parabolic antenna, symbolically reflecting the vast continent, while at the same time receiving information from it. Looking back on the history of Japanese culture, which developed by accepting diverse cultural influences from the Asian continent, it is an interesting notion to conceive this particular shape of the Japanese islands as a symbol that characterizes Japan's cultural history. However, the major cultural influences during Japan's more recent history have come, especially during the modern period, via direct contact with Western civilization, which Japan has been eager to accommodate. In a short space of time, Japan has adopted and adapted Western models of civilization and culture to form its own brand of culture.

This course will explain various subjects of art and culture, which continue to shine in Japanese history based on a point of view that looks at how the culture and civilization developed and changed under the exchange between Asian cultures and the influence of Western culture. In the first semester it deals with traditional Japan, and in the second semester with modernized Japan.

COURSE SCHEDULE

1. Modernizing Japan : The fundamental situation of the society
2. The start of the modernization in arts
3. Japonism and Survivorship of the traditional culture [twice]
4. The Geisha and its culture in modernizing Japan
5. The traditions of the Ainu and modernization
6. The martial arts
7. Zen and Zen culture in modern times
8. The cinema scene of post-war Japan
9. Osamu Tezuka's manga : His technical development and achievement
10. Special-effects movies and Eiji Tsuburaya : 'King Kong', 'Godzilla', and 'Ultra-man'
11. Hayao Miyazaki's animation: : His production technique and new work
12. Re-made versions of Japan movies : Actual achievement and the present condition ('Shall we dance?', 'The Ring,' etc.)
13. Game industries and the creators of Games : How to produce games
14. The introduction of Japanese culture and arts abroad

Evaluation

Attendance 30%; Presentation 30%; Final paper (ca. 2,000 words) 40%

Set Texts and References

Textbook: None

Materials and references are provided

Supplementary Materials

Videotapes and slide films using Power Point presentations are used as teaching materials

All lectures will be set in English