

2009 Fall Semester

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)
- 1 0 . Language Contact (lexical-borrowing ; code-switching) (Weeks 12-13)
- 1 1 . 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

2009 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

2009 Fall Semester

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.

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course D-F

Michelle H. Morrone

Japanese Education and Society

Course Synopsis (Principle Themes and Course Objectives)

This is a discussion course in English on Japanese education, its system, and the social context from which it has evolved. Because education is not an isolated entity, the course will touch on subjects relevant to gaining a better perspective of Japanese education, using sources both academic and from current events. The schedule may be altered according to student interest in topics.

Tentative Schedule:

Week 1 – Introduction

Week 2 – Japanese Social Structure

Week 3 – *Amae*

Week 4 – Self/Identity

Week 5 – Early Education - *skinship*

Week 6 – Preschool in Three Cultures

Week 7 – Dropouts, Bullies, and Suicide

Week 8 - Presentation Schedule Plan

Week 8 - Presentation Work

Week 9 – Presentation Work

Week 10 – Presentations

Week 11 & 12 – Final Presentations

Week 13 & 14 - Journal Writing

Readings/Assignments

NYT newspaper article

from Nakane Chie's *Japanese Society*

from Takeo Doi's *Anatomy of Dependence*

Lebra's *Japanese Self*

Lois Peak's *Learning to Go to School in Japan*

Davidson, et al., *Preschool in Three Cultures*

in M. White's *Can They Ever Go Home*

In-class planning

In-class practice/worksheets

Reading list due

All abstracts due

Papers due

Journals due

Evaluation

Discussion, final presentations, journal (Students will be expected to keep a journal throughout the semester, making notes of things they see in everyday life that relate to the topics discussed.)

Set Texts and References

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course E-F

Kunihiko Mike Masaki

The Toyota Way and a try to update it

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

Toyota will be the world largest automaker in a few years. This Course explores why Toyota has become so strong and, at the same time, how Toyota could overcome the current slowdown situation caused by the Great Recession of this time.

I will try to update the Toyota Way and show you my insight for the next generation vehicles. Through an understanding of the above two areas, we can grasp the Toyota Culture which is so popular among the Toyota related companies located in the Tokai district.

Key activities and words are as follows:

1. Outlines of This Course and overview of the current slowdown situation of auto industry
2. Tour of the Toyota Kaikan and tour of one of the Toyota plants
3. Toyota domestic sales channels and overseas sales activities
4. Customer oriented way of product development
5. Quality implementation during design stages
6. Chief Engineers and their roll and function
7. Prototype build and vehicle evaluation
8. Production control and avoiding MURA, MURI, MUDA, etc.
9. Collaboration between Toyota plants and parts suppliers
10. Quality assurance on production lines and KAIZEN activities
11. Initial sales feedback and immediate modification
12. Service conferences in domestic and overseas markets for obtaining customer requests
13. Cost of ownership project
14. Crashworthiness and safety
15. Recycling
16. Ideas for future vehicles

Evaluation

Students will be expected to actively participate in discussion and Q & A

Set Texts and References

The Toyota Way written by Jeff Liker

2009 Fall Semester

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

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course H-F

Shigehiko Katsurai

The Japanese Tourism Industry : Tourism and Destination Development (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principle Themes and Course Objectives)

The course will discuss how a travel destination is developed 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 promotion of travel destination
2. Players in the travel industry
3. Government policy and tourism
4. Tourism development as an international cooperation
5. Other issues

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.

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course M-F

Kaori Tsurumoto

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

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course O-F

Hiroshi Meguro

Introduction to the History of Japanese Diplomacy

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes and Course Objectives)

This course offers an overview of the history of Japanese diplomacy. In the late 19th century Japan was pressured to open its doors to Western powers. Since then this country not only changed its society drastically and at an extraordinary pace, but it also carefully and aggressively developed its diplomacy. The history of Japanese diplomacy almost equals the history of wars. Accordingly, we will examine how Japan fought the wars with China, Russia, and finally the U.S. and its allies. In addition, we will study what concept and image of the international community the country's leaders shared and what strategies they designed. Toward the end of the course, we will discuss the causes and responsibilities of the war. Short informal presentations based on reading materials and questions will be assigned to the participants in order to make the class interactive.

Tentative list of the topics:

1. Meiji Restoration and the Japanese leaders' image of the world around 1860
2. Japan and East Asia (particularly China and Korea)
3. Sino-Japanese War and the Korean Peninsula
4. Russo-Japanese War and its impact on Asia and the colonialism
5. World War I and the disarmament
6. The Great Depression and Japan's invasion to China
7. Socialism and fascism/militarism
8. World War II in Europe and the Axis
9. The Pacific War
10. Arguments on the causes and responsibilities of the war

Evaluation

Class attendance - 20 %

Class Participation - 30%

Final Examination - 50 %

Set Texts and References

Materials for each class will be distributed in advance.

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course P-F

Hirokazu Shima

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 References

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

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course Q-F

Hiroshi Suzuki

Japan's Economic Power (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

This course will introduce students to the basic study of what is Economics through the case study of various economic phenomena we experienced in our country with clear objective to enable students gain a clue to how to approach individual economic issue of global or not. In the study, the economic situation in major powers and regions are analyzed for the comparable reference with an aim to understand where Japan's Economic Power remains in existence. 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 are as follows: (subject to change)

1. Macroeconomics study on Boom & Bust, Business Fluctuation, Yen/\$, Inflation, Deflation, Economic Growth and so forth.
2. Comparative study of economic situation in major powers and regions.
3. Study of business activity of Japanese companies from the sustainable growth perspective, including CS, SCM, CSR & Green.
4. Other interesting themes to be taken up on going basis

All lectures and lecture materials will be in English.

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.

2009 Fall Semester

Japanese Studies Course S-F

Tomohiro Taguchi

Japanese Culture and Art (Fall)

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

The arch formed 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, especially during the modern period, come via the 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 subjects on traditional Japan. And in the second semester it deals with subjects on 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

Evaluation

Attendance 30%; Home work and Presentation 30%; Final paper (ca. 2,000 words) 40%
[Students are required to read at least one book to write the final paper].

Set Texts and References

Textbook None.

Materials and references are provided.

Supplementary Materials

Video tapes and slide films using PowerPoint presentations are used as teaching materials.

All lectures will be set in English.