

2009 Spring Semester

**Japanese Studies Course B-S**

Douglas K. Wilkerson

**Anime and Contemporary Japanese Culture**

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

The variety of themes treated in Japanese animation (anime) is unparalleled in any other culture. This course will take a look at contemporary culture as expressed in and created by anime. Classes will include lectures on contemporary Japan, viewings of important films, and class discussion.

- |   |                                       |    |                                |
|---|---------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Guidance on Course Registration       | 9  | <i>Neon Genesis Evangelion</i> |
| 2 | Introduction                          | 10 | Creating the Future            |
| 3 | <i>Spirited Away</i>                  | 11 | <i>Ghost in the Shell</i>      |
| 4 | Creating Alternate Realities          | 12 | Creating the Self              |
| 5 | <i>Princess Mononoke</i>              | 13 | <i>Sailor Moon, Astro Boy</i>  |
| 6 | Revising History, Creating the Nation | 14 | Japanese Self in the World     |
| 7 | <i>Perfect Blue</i>                   | 15 | Final Projects                 |
| 8 | Idols, Fans, <i>Otaku</i>             |    |                                |

Evaluation

Grades will be based on attendance and participation in class discussions, a class project (joint projects encouraged), and performance on in-class thought papers.

Set Texts and References

Class Handouts

2009 Spring Semester

## Japanese Studies Course C-S

Peter OBrien

### Japanese Business (Spring)

#### Course Synopsis (Principle Themes)

This course examines Japan and Japanese business relationship as involving a “network society” (used to describe relationships not only between government and business, but also between business firms, as well as between individuals) and “iron triangles” (referring to relations between politicians, bureaucrats, and businesspeople). This course examines (1) the nature and development of networks and the triangle; (2) how they operated in the past; (3) how these operations may have changed as the result of Japanese economic circumstances in the past; and (4) their effects – positive and negative. Only selected issues will be covered – the course is not intended to be comprehensive but is designed to provide in-depth insights into the issues selected.

Class 1: Introduction to the course and to relevant concepts about

Japanese social, business and other networks

Classes 2–5: The Iron Triangle and the Empty Center – the importance of money and connections (i.e., *kone*, *kane*, *tsukiai*, *jinmyaku* and *kinmyaku*, the Todai connection, *sempai-kohai*, *oyabun-kobun*, *gakubatsu* and *shachu*, and *bunkakei* and *taikukakei* membership as examples).

Class 6: Forms of *amakudari*, their effects and recent legal changes

Class 7: The “Dark Side” of Japanese networks – corruption 2007

Classes 8-13: Japanese corporate networks – the three forms of *keiretsu*, and other network relationships (i.e., *keitaretsu*, *sanchi*, *kyodo kumiai*, *shita-uke gyosha* and consumers’ clubs).

Classes 14-15: Student presentations

#### 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 reading is required. Copies of lecture handouts and references to recommended materials will be provided.

2009 Spring Semester

## Japanese Studies Course E-S

Kunihiko Mike Masaki

### **Developing cars in Detroit by the Toyota Way**

#### Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

Toyota became #1 automaker in terms of technology and quality, although #2 volume-wise. But suddenly the Great Recession hit the world economy and auto industry including Toyota and its part suppliers in Tokai district is struggling to find out ideas to break through the current slow down situation. This course explores how Toyota could recover and keep #1 position from two perspectives. One is to look back how Detroit has been doing and how Toyota has been nestled in the US auto industry, and the other is to go through the Toyota Way carefully so that it can be updated, if necessary. The short history of Toyota in US since “the Safety Standards” and “the Exhaust Emission Standards” were established in 1960s, together with Big 3’s business style in Detroit, will be clarified in the Spring Semester, and explanation of the Toyota Way and discussion about future cars will be held in the Fall Semester.

Key activities and words are as follows;

1. Outline of this Course and overview of the auto industry
2. Tour of the Toyota Kaikan and tour of one of the Toyota plants
3. Opening of the MEISHIN Highway and the engineering level of Japanese cars of those days
4. Establishment of the Safety Standards and the Exhaust Emission Standards in US
5. Toyota’s new project with GM and start of NUMMI
6. Blueprint building Toyota US Headquarters and burst of the Bubble Economy in Japan
7. Japan bashing, LA riot, living in Bloomfield Hills, relationship with U of M
8. Big 3 and its business style in Detroit
9. Expansion of Toyota Technical Center and implementation of the Toyota Way
10. Camry project and its presentation at the SAE Detroit Section Meeting
11. Presence of TTC in US and relationship with Toyota Headquarters in Japan
12. Toyota business units and their collaboration
13. Toyota decided to go into the large pickup truck market in US with Tundra
14. Difference between Japanese culture and US culture
15. Events in Detroit---Auto Show, SAE Congress & Exposition, U of M Seminar, Car Race
16. Automobile industry researchers, J .D. Power investigation, etc.

#### 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 Spring Semester

## **Japanese Studies Course F-S**

Kunihiko Harada

### **Japanese Pop Culture through Media: Focus on Commercials and "Uncommercials" (Spring)**

#### Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)

How does the media construct images of Japan in the eyes of non-Japanese? And how do these images change once they spend some time in Japan? This class will focus on both Japanese and foreign commercials and public service announcements ("uncommercials") on TV and the Internet. Building on Japanese Pop Culture through Media (Fall), and working together with native-speakers of Japanese, students will have a chance to contrast Japanese and foreign treatments of the topics below. Students will also examine what the "authors" are trying to convey and what to conceal, and whether or not a different target culture would require a different treatment. The focus of the class will also shift away from mere critical analysis toward the creation of culturally effective media messages by the students.

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

#### Sample topics:

1. Animals
2. War and Conflict
3. Humor
4. AIDS
5. Money and Finance
6. Environment
7. Disability

#### 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 an individual basis.

#### Set Texts and References

Web sites and handouts

2009 Spring Semester

**Japanese Studies Course H-S**

Shigehiko Katsurai

**The Japanese Tourism Industry: Hospitality and Travel (Spring)**

**Course Synopsis (Principle Themes and Course Objectives)**

The course is intended to provide a comprehensive understanding of the Japanese tourism industry. Participants are primarily students from overseas but undergraduate students are also encouraged to share ideas and thoughts with international students.

Current travel businesses deal with both outbound and inbound travel; through this we will study the structures of and interdependence within the industry. The primary topics we will discuss are travel agencies, airlines, ryokan and hotels operating in Japan.

We will also refer to tourists' cross-cultural idiosyncrasies and research business practices through observation of tourism-related industries in Nagoya and the Central Japan (Chubu) Region.

**Key topics:**

1. What are travels and tourism like for Japanese?
2. Domestic Travel Market
3. Japanese Overseas Travel
4. Inbound travel: Visitors to Japan
5. Airlines and Railways
6. Hotels and Ryokans
7. Travel Agencies
8. Central Japan Region Market

**Evaluation**

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

**Set Texts and References**

The instructor will provide materials when necessary.

2009 Spring Semester

## **Japanese Studies Course L-S**

Robert W. Aspinall

### **Contemporary Issues in Japanese Politics**

#### Aims of this course:

This course is designed to help students research and discuss some of the key contemporary issues in Japanese politics. The background to each topic will be explored and theoretical models from the social sciences will be used when they can help our understanding. Students will be encouraged to think critically and to challenge any preconceived ideas they may have about each of the topics under discussion.

#### Content of this course:

Below is a proposed list of topics for class discussion. The course also allows for a flexible response both to changing events and to the research interests of class members. All students will be expected to take an active part in each week's discussion. In addition they will select two topics for special study and they will make an oral presentation in class on one and write a written report on the other.

1. The changing role of the prime minister.
2. Japanese nationalism and memories of World War Two
3. The debate surrounding proposed revisions to the Japanese constitution.
4. Japan's defence and foreign policy
5. Political parties
6. Policies relating to the family and children
7. Education reform
8. Politics and the environment
9. Internationalization and Japan as a multicultural society
10. Young people and changing patterns of employment
11. Politics and pop culture in Japan and East Asia
12. Local and national elections

#### Evaluation

Students will be required to make one presentation and submit one report.

#### Set Texts and References

Materials, references and reading lists will be provided by the course coordinator.

2009 Spring Semester

**Japanese Studies Course M-S**

Kaori Tsurumoto

**Mapping Culture : The Legacy of Nagono**

**Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)**

This is a fieldwork -based class which seeks to broaden and deepen our understanding of how Nagono (or Nagoya) became an important castle town during the Warring and Edo Periods of Japan. We will visit various historic sites including Atsuta Shrine, Arimatsu City, Nagoya Castle and its vicinity. 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 Nagoya Castle & Horikawa (2nd, 3rd class)
3. Lecture: Urban Development of Nagono Into Nagoya (4th class)
4. Fieldwork Visits to Arimatsu City & Atsuta Shrine (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 Spring Semester

**Japanese Studies Course O-S**

Hiroshi Meguro

**Contemporary Issues in International Relations and Japanese Diplomacy**

Course Synopsis (Principal Themes and Course Objectives)

This course deals with issues about contemporary international relations and Japanese diplomacy. We will examine the security relations between Japan and the U.S., and various aspects of the bilateral relations among Japan and its neighboring countries, particularly China and Korea. Now the Obama administration of the United States is expected to have some impact on East Asia; therefore, we will discuss some issues regarding U.S.-East Asia relations at the beginning of the course. If the time permits, we will look at the Middle East because the region is extremely volatile but strategically crucial to the international community. 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. The Obama Administration and East Asia/Japan
2. Japan-U.S. security relations, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution and pacifism in Japan
3. Historical issues between Japan and its neighboring countries, such as China and Korea. Apologies, reconciliation and nationalism.
4. Economic down-turn and social unrests in China
5. China and the international community (Taiwan, Tibet, Myanmar, human rights, etc.)
6. North Korea and Six-Party Talks; Nuclear issues and abduction cases
7. The recurring nightmare in the Middle East (Israel and Gaza)
8. The U.S. and the Middle East (Iraq & Afghanistan)
9. Nuclear proliferation in the Middle East (Iran)
10. Other "hot" issues coming up

\* The order of the above topics is subject to change according to developments in current news.

Evaluation

Class attendance - 20 %

Class Participation - 30%

Final Examination - 50 %

Set Texts and References

Materials for each class will be distributed in advance.

2009 Spring Semester

**Introduction to Global Business in Japan**

**Course Synopsis (Principal Themes)**

This is an introductory course in business administration which will focus on and analyze globally oriented companies in Japan. The course objective is to offer general knowledge of global management and operations with an emphasis on western perspectives among the Japanese firms. Issues involving effective leadership in the global environment will also be discussed. The class will be conducted in English, and students are required to both submit assignments and make presentations in English. Active participation is expected since the class will be conducted interactively. The main topics to be covered in this course are as follows:

1. The Culture of Japanese Companies
2. Globalization in Japan Today
3. Company Philosophy and Concept
4. Cross-Cultural and Cross-Functional Approach
5. Objective of Standardization
6. Developing Company Culture

**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: Charles W. L. Hill, *INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS* (International Edition (5<sup>TH</sup> ed), McGraw Hill, 2004  
Warren J. Keegan and Mark C. Green, *GLOBAL MARKETING* (4<sup>TH</sup> ed), Pearson International Edition, 2005  
Jeffrey K. Liker and David Meier, *THE TOYOTA WAY*, McGraw Hill, 2006

2009 Spring Semester

**Japanese Studies Course Q-S**

Hiroshi Suzuki

**Japan's Economic Power (Spring)**

**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 Spring Semester

## Japanese Studies Course S-S

Tomohiro Taguchi

### Japanese Culture and Art (Spring)

#### 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. The ideal of Japanese culture and arts : The intermixed culture of the traditional and the modern one.  
The diverse view points on the study of traditional Japan [Once]
2. The formation of ancient Japan before Buddhism's introduction : The origin of the Japanese culture "the magical culture and arts"  
The birth of ancient civilizations and the formation of Japanese culture [Twice]
3. The formation and the spread of the Buddhism : The beginning and development of the Buddhism art  
The influence of the Indian culture [twice]
4. Absorbing and assimilating the Chinese and the Korean culture: *Hiragana, Katakana, Waka*, Calligrapher, and narrative scroll painting  
The Japanese culture within the East Asian culture area [Twice]
5. The formation and development of the Samurai culture : Noh drama, the ink painting, and the foundations of the tea ceremony and gardens as art.  
Japanese culture in the Middle Ages [Twice]
6. The absorption of the Western culture in the Momoyama period : The aesthetic of castle art.  
Japanese culture in the Age of Great Voyages [Twice]
7. The culture of the townsmen in Edo era : Theaters, paintings and aesthetic sense "Sui and Iki"  
The essence of the Edo culture in the modern history [Twice]

#### 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.  
Visiting cultural and historical places such as museums and sites will be recommended.