Japan: Culture, Society, Modernity

Schedule of Course Readings

* = Required Course Textbook (or, on reserve in the library)
© = On e-reserve on the Classes V2 server

Note: This schedule is subject to change. See course home page for amendments and revisions.
http://www.disabilitystudies.jp/nakamura/

Week 1 (September 4)
Topic: Course Introduction: Japan seen from the USA
Thursday: No assigned reading.

Week 2 (September 9-11)
Topic: What is Japan? Japanese Culture as Monoethnic / in the Blood


Section Film: Afterlife (Wandafuru Raifu) by Hirokazu Koreeda
Week 3 (September 16-18)


Tuesday:

Thursday:
HQ1765/T64/B85/1995

Section Film: Living through a Miracle

Week 4 (September 23-25)

Topic: Salarymen and Office Ladies

Tuesday:
© Thomas P. Rohlen, "The Office Group," in his For Harmony and Strength, pp. 93-120 (University of California Press, 1974)
* Yuko Ogasawara, "Popularity Poll," Chapter 4 in her Office Ladies and Salaried Men: Power, Gender, and Work in Japanese Companies
© Tanaka, Hiroshi (1990). Selections from Tanaka-kun in Mangajin

Thursday:
HD6073/M392/J36/1998

Assignment: Essay 1 (750 words) due in class

Section Film: Being Japanese
Week 5 (September 30-Oct 2)

**Topic:** Japanese Youth – Education


**Thursday:** © Elisabeth Bumiller, *The Secrets of Mariko*, pp. 91 - finish. HQ1765/T64/B85/1995

**Section Film:** *The Learning Machine*

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Week 6 (Oct 7-9)

**Topic:** Japanese Youth – Rebellion


© Marina Lee-Cunin, "The Student Academic Experience: Students' Thoughts on Reform and the Future," chapter 6 of her *Student Views in Japan: A Study of Japanese Students' Perceptions of Their First Years at*

© Yuki Honda, "'Freeters': Young Atypical Workers in Japan" [unpublished manuscript]
© Colin Smith, "Freeters and the Search for Meaningful Work in Post-Bubble Heisei Japan" [chapter in David Slater (editor), Youth in Japan, in preparation]

Section Film: Densha Otoko (The Train Man)

Week 7 (Oct 14-16)

Topic: Women and Gender in Japan Part I
Tuesday: * Yuko Ogasawara, Office Ladies and Salaried Men, pp. 98-168
Guest Lecture: Anne Watzka

Section Film: Full Moon Lunch
Week 8 (Oct 21-23)

Topic: Women and Gender in Japan Part II – Housewife and Household

Tuesday:


© Hirakawa (2004) “Give me one good reason to marry a Japanese man”

Thursday: * Yuko Ogasawara, *Office Ladies and Salaried Men*, pp. 98-168

Section Film: *Shall We Dance* (1996: Suo Masayuki)

Week 9 (Oct 28-30)

Topic: Women and Gender in Japan Part III – Shojo Bunka

Tuesday:


Other readings TBA

Guest Lecture: Natsu Matsuda

Essay #2 draft due (in class)

Thursday:


© Napier, Susan (2001): Ch. 4 “Controlling bodies” (63-84; 22 pp) in *Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke: Experiencing Contemporary Japanese Animation*.

Section Film: *Dream Girls*
Week 10 (Nov 4-6)

**Topic:** Religion and Nationalism in Japan

**Tuesday:** Guest Lecture: Isaac Gagne
Readings TBA

**Thursday:** Guest Lecture: Nathaniel Smith
Readings TBA

**Section Film:** TBA

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Week 11 (Nov 11-13)

**Topic:** Importation and Remaking: The Politics of Authenticity

**Tuesday:** © Tobin, Joseph (1992): Introduction to *Remade in Japan*

**Thursday:** * First half of *Hip-hop in Japan*
Essay #2 final due (in class)

**Section Film:** *Samurai Champloo*

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Week 12-13 (Nov 18-27)

Society for Visual Anthropology Conference and then Thanksgiving Break

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Week 14 (Dec 2-4)

**Topic:** TBA and Class Wrap-up

**Tuesday:** TBA

**Thursday:** TBA

**Section Film:** TBA

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**Friday, December 12:** Final Essay #3 due @ 11:30 am
Monday, December 15: Final Exam @ 9:00 a.m. for non-WR students

END OF SEMESTER: HAVE A NICE WINTER BREAK!

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