

# Japan and Globalization

## A Cultural Approach

### Section 1

Instructor/Title	Steven C. Fedorowicz
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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

In today's world, it is widely held that global scale culture supercedes governments and political boundaries; economy is paramount. The current buzz-word to explain this phenomenon is "globalization." But what does this supposedly new concept really entail? Globalization is about movement and interaction: people, culture, technology, goods and services, money, religion and ideologies are moving through porous borders causing immediate and intense contact. This cultural contact affects everyone in the global village albeit in vastly different ways. Globalization is an uneven process in terms of the spread of new technologies and communication. Where does Japan and Japanese culture fit within globalization? It is easy to see global influences inside of Japan: McDonald's, Starbucks and fancy European brand names are everywhere. But Japanese culture has long been moving out and influencing other areas of the globe as well. This course will investigate globalization from an anthropological perspective focusing on the important and interesting movements and interactions between Japan and the rest of the world.

Some cultural practices examined in this class might seem very strange or even offensive to you. You might not personally agree with certain theories presented in lectures and discussions. However, by exploring different practices, perspectives and theories, it is hoped that the student will gain a better understanding about the nature of both her/his global and local worlds.

### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

(Subject to Change)

M 9/3 Introduction to Course and Anthropology

**RECOMMENDED READING** Sugimoto: *The Japan Phenomenon and the Social Sciences*

–AND– Geographical and Generational Variations

### *I. Current State of the World -or- "How did we get here?"*

W 9/5 Culture Scale and Japanese Examples

**READ** Bodley: *The Emerging World System*

M 9/10 Film and discussion: *Home* (Arthus-Bertrand 2009)

W 9/12 The Current State of the World

**READ Bodley: The Impoverished World**

**RECOMMENDED READING Gusterson: From Brexit to Trump**

M 9/17 Respect-for-the-Aged Day (National Holiday)

Anthropology, Modernity, Colonialism and Development

**READ Pitt: Development from Below**

**RECOMMENDED READING Bodley: Indigenous Peoples**

**RECOMMENDED READING Mathews: World Anthropology**

## *II. What is Globalization?*

W 9/19 Globalization and Anthropology

**READ Inda and Rosaldo: A World in Motion**

M 9/24 Substitute Holiday for Autumnal Equinox Day (National Holiday)

Globalization and Anthropology (cont'd)

**RECOMMENDED READING Friedman and Ekholm Friedman**

W 9/26 Globalization and the Mixing of Culture(s)

**READ Pollock and Van Reken: Third Culture Kids**

**RECOMMENDED READING Sugihara: The Complicated Life of a Young**

**Japanese Returnee** <https://globalvoices.org/2017/07/21/between-worlds-the-complicated-life-of-a-young-japanese-returnee/> -AND-  
**Ishii: Invisible Gaijin** <https://blog.gaijinpot.com/invisible-gaijin-postcards-non-japanese-japanese-person-living-japan/>

## *III. Japan and Globalization*

M 10/1 Introduction to Globalization Issues in Japan

**READ Grimes: Japan and Globalization -AND- Aoki: Aspects of Globalization in Contemporary Japan**

W 10/3 HIV/AIDS in Japan

**READ Cullinane: Exposure and Surveillance**

**RECOMMENDED READING Fedorowicz: Living Partial Truths**

M 10/8 Health and Sports Day (National Holiday)

Catch-up/Consultation

**READ** <https://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.com/search?q=sports>

### *III-A. Food*

W 10/10 Film and Discussion: *Fed Up* (Soechtig, 2014) **READ NY Times**

M 10/15 **READ Ohnuki-Tierney: McDonald's in -AND- Ritzer: Globalization and McDonalds**

W 10/17 McDonalds and KFC – Further Discussion

Film: *The Colonel Comes to Japan* (Enterprise, 1981)

M 10/22 Film and Discussion: *The Cove* (Psihoyos, 2009)

**READ <http://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.jp/search?q=The+cove>**

W 10/24 The Globalization of Sushi **READ Bestor: How Sushi Went Global**

M 10/29 Fall Break – **NO CLASS**

W 10/31 Special Lecture: Halloween in Japan **READ: TBA**

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION QUESTIONS HANDED OUT**

### **III-B. Pop Culture**

M 11/5 Film and Discussion: *The Japanese Version* (Alvarez and Kolker, 1991)

**RECOMMENDED READING The Japanese Version - Film Overview**

[http://www.cnam.com/downloads/tjv\\_sg.html](http://www.cnam.com/downloads/tjv_sg.html)

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION DUE**

W 11/7 Hip-Hop in Japan **READ Condry: Japanese Rap Music**

M 11/12 Japanese Professional Baseball

**READ Whiting: The Samurai Way of Baseball and the National Character Debate**

W 11/14 Film and Discussion: *Sumo East and West* (Pearlstein 2003)

**RECOMMENDED READING Craig: Sumo Meets Globalization: Foreigners Carry Japan's Most Traditional Sport**

M 11/19 Popular Culture and Globalization

**READ Tsutsui: Lost in Translation**

W 11/21 Popular Culture and Globalization (cont'd)

**READ Tsutsui: Soft Superpower**

M 11/26 Kitty-chan and the Culture of Cuteness

**READ Belson and Bremer: Hello Kitty - AND Yano: Kitty at Home**  
**SPECIAL HOMEWORK: Bring a Kitty item to class ("No Kitty, No Class!")**

### **III-C. Human Interactions**

W 11/28 Japanese Women and Foreign Men **READ Kelsky**

M 12/3 Film and discussion: *Hafu* (Nishikura and Perez Takagi, 2013)

**READ <http://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.jp/search?q=hafu>**  
**-AND- <http://features.japantimes.co.jp/dualcitizenship/>**

W 12/5 *Hafu* **READ Kavanagh -AND- Celebrating Japan's multicultural Olympians**

M 12/10 International Exchange Students

**READ Ogawa: Japanese Ryugakusei in American Universities –AND- Asaoka and Yano: The Contribution of "Study Abroad" Programs to Japanese Internalization**

W 12/12 Japan and Globalization: The Future

**READ <http://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.jp/search/label/globalization>**

M 12/17 Course wrap-up and review activities

**FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTIONS HANDED OUT**

**Final Examination Week is 12/18-12/22. Check the CIE final examination schedule for the date, time and place for the final exam.**

**【Textbooks/Reading Materials】**

#### **Section 4**

**【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】**

**Grading will be based on:**

Students will be evaluated as follows:

1. Participation (active and passive) (10%)
2. Panel of Experts (30%)
3. Midterm Exam (30%)
4. Final Exam (30%)

**Panel of Experts:** Students sign up twice during the course of the semester to be an "expert" for a particular article. The "experts" will have the first opportunity to speak during class discussions on their particular day. This activity is an attempt to give every student the chance to participate in class and voice her/his opinion.

Reading assignments including complete citations can be found on the university Black Board System (access it at <https://lms.kansaigaidai.ac.jp/index.html>). You will need to log in using your KGU student account and password. Other information and services may become available on Black Board during the course of the semester.

Please understand that students share responsibility with the Professor in terms of communication regarding class issues. If you cannot speak to the Professor before, during or after class, please see him in office hours or contact him via e-mail.

## Section 5

[Additional Information]

### Standards of Personal and Academic Conduct

**Personal Conduct:** Please refrain from any personal conduct that infringes upon the rights of other students, faculty, or staff. Examples of other unacceptable behavior includes, among other things, interrupting others during class discussions, making rude and/or abusive comments, coming to class late, and leaving class early.

**Electronic Devices:** Please refrain from using laptop computers, cell phones, iPods, iPads, e-books, video games, tape recorders, digital cameras, video cameras, etc. in class without permission. Such usage in the form of multi-tasking rarely adds to the classroom experience at the time and is also distracting to other students.

**Academic Cheating:** The best advice here is don't do it! So there is no misunderstanding about the nature of cheating, I provide the KGU Center for International Education and the Asian Studies Program official policy:

The Asian Studies Program takes very seriously any incident of academic cheating. Cheating is unfair to students who work honestly, and compromises both the learning and evaluation processes.

Academic cheating includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (using previously published work without properly acknowledging the source, including that available on the internet); submitting work done in collusion with a student or someone else in a manner not authorized by the instructor; misconduct on an examination, or any other attempt to dishonestly pass off another's work as one's own or otherwise create an unfair academic advantage.

The penalties for academic cheating may include failure on the assignment [and] failure in the course.