

# Japan and Globalization

## A Cultural Approach

### Section 1

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### 【Course Outline / Description】

In today's world, it is widely held that global scale culture supersedes governments and political boundaries; economy is paramount. The current buzz-word to explain this phenomenon is "globalization." But what does this supposedly relatively recent 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. 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. In this course, students will investigate globalization from an anthropological perspective focusing on the important and interesting movements and interactions between Japan and the rest of the world. By exploring different practices, perspectives and theories, it is hoped that the student will gain a better understanding about the nature of and relationships between contemporary global and local settings.

### Section 2

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

Students will be able to recognize and define important aspects about the anthropology of globalization. Students will be able to identify and explain events, trends and ideas related to contemporary Japanese society and culture through specific case studies and the perspective of the anthropology of globalization.

Students will better understand the advantages and challenges of remote learning during their actual experiences in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Students will be able to recognize how, unfortunately, the pandemic is an excellent example of globalization; as a case study it exemplifies many of the major topics we investigate in class. Physical boundaries and political borders cannot stop the pandemic. Some state governments have been more successful than others in reducing its effects. Remote learning, through technology and cooperation, gives us a safe environment to communicate and learn from each other despite our actual and diverse physical locations. This is a new global village.

### Section 3

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

Note: LIVE classes will be conducted via Zoom on the scheduled Zoom Day and Time Zone as per the class schedule. REMOTE classes, done independently by students, will be made available on the On-Demand Day and should be completed in the same week as the previous Zoom Day. Please do not fall behind with the classes and course materials.

1 LIVE: 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?”

- 2 REMOTE: Watch film, Home (Arthus-Bertrand 2009). Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqxENMKaeCU>  
READ: HAASS: Climate Change
- 3 LIVE: Culture Scale and Japanese Examples  
READ Bodley: The Emerging World System
- 4 REMOTE: Recorded Lecture, Anthropology, Modernity, Colonialism and Development  
READ Haass: Development  
READ Pitt: Development from Below  
RECOMMENDED READING Bodley: Indigenous Peoples  
RECOMMENDED READING Mathews: World Anthropology
- 5 LIVE: The Current State of the World  
READ Bodley: The Impoverished World  
RECOMMENDED READING Gusterson: From Brexit to Trump
- 6 REMOTE: Watch film, Fed Up (Soechtig 2014). Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y647tNm8nTI>  
READ Haass: Global Health

## II. What is Globalization?

- 7 LIVE: Globalization and Anthropology  
READ Inda and Rosaldo: A World in Motion  
READ Haass: Globalization
- 8 REMOTE: Recorded Lecture, Globalization and Anthropology (cont'd)  
RECOMMENDED READING Friedman and Ekholm Friedman
- 9 LIVE: Globalization and the Mixing of Culture(s) – Third Culture Kids  
READ Pollock and Van Reken: Third Culture Kids  
RECOMMENDED READING Sugihara: The Complicated Life of a Young Japanese Returnee. Available at:  
<https://globalvoices.org/2017/07/21/between-worlds-the-complicated-life-of-a-young-japanese-returnee/>  
RECOMMENDED READING: Ishii: Invisible Gaijin. Available at:  
<https://blog.gaijinpot.com/invisible-gaijin-postcards-non-japanese-japanese-person-living-japan/>

## III. Japan and Globalization

- 10 REMOTE: Recorded Lecture, Introduction to Globalization Issues in Japan  
READ Grimes: Japan and Globalization  
READ Aoki: Aspects of Globalization in Contemporary Japan

### III-A. Food

- 11 LIVE: McDonalds in Japan  
READ Ohnuki-Tierney: McDonald's in Japan  
READ Ritzer: Globalization and McDonalds
- 12 REMOTE: KFC in Japan, Watch film, The Colonel Comes to Japan (Enterprise, 1981)  
Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwwmKcFVji8>

13 LIVE: Chinese Food in Japan  
READ Cheung: The Invention of Delicacy

14 REMOTE: Watch film, The Cove (Psihoyos, 2009). Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jSNNeu3ffzk>  
READ Hollstein: Failing Flipper  
RECOMMENDED READING: VAOJ posts. Available at:  
<http://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.jp/search?q=The+cove>

15 LIVE: The Globalization of Sushi  
READ Bestor: How Sushi Went Global  
RECOMMENDED READINGS: VAOJ posts. Available at:  
<https://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.com/2019/08/tsukiji-fish-market-circa-2011.html>  
AND  
<https://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.com/2019/08/the-new-toyosu-fish-market-in-tokyo.html>

### III-B. Sports

16 REMOTE: Watch film, Kokoyakyu (Eng, 2006). Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6wdTz-hn0JY>  
READ Kelly: An Anthropologist in the Bleachers: Cheering a Japanese Baseball Team

17 LIVE: Japanese Professional Baseball  
READ Whiting: The Samurai Way of Baseball and the National Character Debate

18 REMOTE: Watch film, Sumo East and West (Pearlstein 2003). Available at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GszDKGnODM4>  
READ Craig: Sumo Meets Globalization  
RECOMMENDED READING Fruhstuck & Manzenreiter: Judo Cultures

### III-C. Pop Culture

19 LIVE: Popular Culture and Globalization  
READ Tsutsui: Lost in Translation  
READ Tsutsui: Soft Superpower

20 REMOTE: Recorded Lecture, Popular Culture and Globalization (cont'd)

21 LIVE: Kitty-chan and the Culture of Cuteness  
READ Belson and Bremer: Hello Kitty  
READ Yano: Kitty at Home  
SPECIAL HOMEWORK: Bring a Kitty item to class

22 REMOTE: Watch film, The Japanese Version (Alvarez and Kolker, 1991).  
Available at: TO BE ANNOUNCED  
RECOMMENDED READING: The Japanese Version - Film Overview  
[http://www.cnam.com/downloads/tjv\\_sg.html](http://www.cnam.com/downloads/tjv_sg.html)

23 LIVE: Hip-hop in Japan  
READ Condry: Japanese Rap Music

24 REMOTE: Hip-Hop in Japan. Watch film, Scratching the Surface: Japan (Hassan 2005)  
Available at: TO BE ANNOUNCED

### III-D. Human Interactions

25 LIVE: International Romantic Relationships

READ Kelsky: Women on the Verge

26 REMOTE: Watch film, The Great Happiness Space (Clennell 2006). Available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42oDQ4biOaY>

READ Takeyama: Commodified romance in a Tokyo host club

27 LIVE: HIV/AIDS in Japan

READ Cullinane: Exposure and Surveillance

RECOMMENDED READING Fedorowicz: Living Partial Truths

28 REMOTE: Watch film, Hafu (Nishikura and Perez Takagi, 2013)

Available at: TO BE ANNOUNCED

RECOMMENDED READING: VAOJ posts. Available at:

<http://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.jp/search?q=hafu>

RECOMMENDED READING: Dual Citizenship in Japan. Available at:

<http://features.japantimes.co.jp/dualcitizenship/>

29 LIVE: Hafu

READ Kavanagh

30 REMOTE: International Exchange Students

READ Ogawa: Japanese Ryugakusei in American Universities

READ Asaoka and Yano: The Contribution of “Study Abroad” Programs to Japanese Internalization

#### **【Textbooks/Reading Materials】**

All work outside of class meetings, including reading assignments with their full citations and urls for remote audio-visual materials and recorded lectures, can be found on the university Black Board System.

#### **Section 4**

##### **【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】**

Grading will be based on:

1. Participation (Zoom Day and Discussion Board) (30%)
2. Midterm Essay Exam (35%) (due at the halfway point of the course)
3. Final Essay Exam (35%) (due during the announced Final's Week)

Students will be expected to post twice per week on the Black Board Discussion. One post should include their own thoughts, reactions and/or questions about the topic(s) that week. The other post should be done in reaction to another student's post.

#### **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.

**Academic Cheating:** The best advice here is don't do it! So there is no misunderstanding about the nature of cheating or our university's policies, I provide the KGU Center for International Education and 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.