

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 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.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Lecture 1 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?"

Lecture 2 Culture Scale and Japanese Examples

READ Bodley: The Emerging World System

Lecture 3 Film and discussion: Home (Arthus-Bertrand 2009)

Lecture 4 The Current State of the World

READ Bodley: The Impoverished World

RECOMMENDED READING Gusterson: From Brexit to Trump

Lecture 5 Anthropology, Modernity, Colonialism and Development

READ Pitt: Development from Below

RECOMMENDED READING Bodley: Indigenous Peoples

RECOMMENDED READING Mathews: World Anthropology

II. What is Globalization?

Lecture 6 Globalization and Anthropology

READ Inda and Rosaldo: A World in Motion

Lecture 7 Globalization and Anthropology (cont'd)

RECOMMENDED READING Friedman and Ekholm Friedman

Lecture 8 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 -AND- Ishii: Invisible Gaijin

III. Japan and Globalization

Lecture 9 Introduction to Globalization Issues in Japan

READ Grimes: Japan and Globalization -AND- Aoki: Aspects of

Globalization in Contemporary Japan

Lecture 10 HIV/AIDS in Japan

READ Cullinane: Exposure and Surveillance

RECOMMENDED READING Fedorowicz: Living Partial Truths

III-A. Food

Lecture 11 Film and Discussion: Fed Up (Soechtig, 2014)

READ NY Times

Lecture 12 McDonald's in Japan

READ Ohnuki-Tierney: McDonald's in -AND- Ritzer: Globalization and

McDonalds

Lecture 13 McDonalds and KFC – Further Discussion

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

Lecture 14 Film and Discussion: The Cove (Psihoyos, 2009)

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

Lecture 15 The Globalization of Sushi

READ Bestor: How Sushi Went Global

Lecture 16 Chinese Food in Japan

READ Cheung: The Invention of Delicacy

Lecture 17 Midterm Review Activities

READ/REVIEW all articles to date

III-B. Pop Culture

Lecture 18 Film and Discussion: The Japanese Version (Alvarez and Kolker, 1991)
RECOMMENDED READING The Japanese Version - Film Overview

Lecture 19 Hip-Hop in Japan READ Condry: Japanese Rap Music

Lecture 20 Japanese Professional Baseball
READ Whiting: The Samurai Way of Baseball and the National Character Debate

Lecture 21 Film and Discussion: Sumo East and West (Pearlstein 2003)
RECOMMENDED READING Craig: Sumo Meets Globalization: Foreigners Carry Japan's Most Traditional Sport

Lecture 22 Popular Culture and Globalization
READ Tsutsui: Lost in Translation

Lecture 24 Popular Culture and Globalization (cont'd)
READ Tsutsui: Soft Superpower

Lecture 25 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

Lecture 26 Japanese Women and Foreign Men
READ Kelsky

Lecture 27 Film and discussion: Hafu (Nishikura and Perez Takagi, 2013)
READ <http://visualanthropologyofjapan.blogspot.jp/search?q=hafu>
-AND- <http://features.japantimes.co.jp/dualcitizenship/>

Lecture 28 Hafu
READ Kavanagh -AND- Celebrating Japan's Multicultural Olympians

Lecture 29 International Exchange Students
READ Ogawa: Japanese Ryugakusei in American Universities -AND-
Asaoka and Yano: The Contribution of "Study Abroad" Programs to Japanese Internalization

M 12/17 Course Wrap-up and Final Review Activities
READ/REVIEW all articles from Part III-B and III-C

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

All work outside of classroom assignments, including reading assignments with their full citations, can be found on the university Black Board System and/or Visual Anthropology of Japan website.

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Grading will be based on:

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

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 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.