

2024 Fall Semester

KODAI to GENDAI: Influences of Literature on Japanese Society and Culture

Section 1

Instructor	Ghosh Dastidar, Debasrita
Office/Building	Main admin bldg. 805
Office Hours	12:20-13:00

【Course Outline / Description】

This course examines the scope of Japanese Society and Culture from ancient to modern times. Students are expected to recognize how the rich history of Japan played a vital role in shaping the present through the study of various socio-cultural practices and norms. The scope would range from mythology, feudalism to post war trends of globalization. Students are encouraged to reflect and develop their own perspectives on social and cultural events that mark the various important developments of Japanese history.

Each module will be structured around a social or cultural subject. Students will be given take home readings or asked to explore and analyze the particular topic. Active student engagement and participation is encouraged for critical analysis and understanding of each module. Students will involve in individual, pair or group work. Each week there will be one out-of-class compulsory reading or other suggested readings. Basic knowledge of Japanese society and culture would be an advantage but not a requirement for the course.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Students should be able to;

- ✓ Learn the major events of Japanese history.
- ✓ Describe how Japanese history develops with time.
- ✓ Identify the key features of each period in Japanese history.
- ✓ Recognize the socio-political background of each period and how it affects individuals and subsequently influence literary works.
- ✓ Summarize own opinion about the relation between Japanese history.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

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Course schedule

Week	Session	Topic
1	1	Orientation Out of class reading: White hare of Inaba
	2	Early Japan: Mythology Out of class reading: Urashima Taro
2	3	Nara Period: Influence of Toufu Bunka Out of class reading: The tale of bamboo cutter
	4	Heian Period: Kokufu Bunka Out of class reading: Kokinshu

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3	5	Feudal Japan: Rise of Samurai Out of class reading: Tale of Heike
	6	Battle of Heike Out of class reading: Kamakura Period:
4	7	Kamakura Period: Establishment of Bakufu Out of class reading: Sengoku Period
	8	3 Unifiers of Japan Out of class reading: Edo Period
5	9	Isolation/Sakoku Out of class reading: Mid-term preparation
	10	Mid-term Presentation: Nara to Edo Out of class reading: Mid-term presentation
6	11	Mid-term Presentation: Nara to Edo Out of class reading: Bakumatsu
	12	Boshin War: Opening of Japan Out of class reading: Meiji period history
7	13	Meiji Constitution Out of class reading: Meiji period history
	14	Rapid Modernization Out of class reading: Meiji period history
8	15	Russo -Japanese War Out of class reading: Meiji period history
	16	Taisho Democracy Out of class reading: Taisho Period history
9	17	Taisho Rice riots and women's liberation movement Out of class reading: Taisho Period history
	18	Birth of Modern Girl Out of class reading: Showa Period history
10	19	Early Showa: Rise of Militarism Out of class reading: Showa Period history
	20	Post war Showa: Aftermath Out of class reading: Showa Period history
11	21	New Japan: Occupation Out of class reading: Showa Period history
	22	Post war Development: Economic Miracle Out of class reading: Showa Period history
12	23	Oil Crisis: Effects in Japan Out of class reading: Showa Period history
	24	New trends in Mass Culture Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
13	25	Post war society and literature: Mishima Yukio Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
	26	Post war society and literature: Abe Kobo Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature

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14	27	Post war society and literature: Oe Kenzaburo Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
	28	Preparatory session: Final Presentation/essay Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
15	29	Final Presentation/essay
	30	Course Review and Feedback

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Gordon, Andrew *A modern history of Japan*, Oxford University Press; 3 edition (March 26, 2013)

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Assessment:

Final Exam 20% (Presentation and Essay)

Midterm Exam 20% (Presentation and Essay)

Writing assignments 40%

Participation and journal 20%

Mid-term & Final presentations will be assessed as below (20 points each);

Content: Presentation shows valuable material and relevance of topic.

Background research: Evidence of Literature review, research methods and analysis of findings.

Organization Well organized and easy to follow slides.

Delivery: Speak clearly, Tone and clarity of words, use of vocabulary,

Interaction: Engaged the audience. Body language and eye contact

Section 5

【Additional Information】 ← Study packets for the course will be provided on the day of Orientation.