

## 2024 Spring 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】

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

#### Course schedule

Week	Session	Topic
1	1	Orientation
	2	Early Japan: Mythology
2	3	Nara Period: Influence of Toufu Bunka
	4	Heian Period: Kokufu Bunka
3	5	Feudal Japan: Rise of Samurai
	6	Battle of Heike
4	7	Kamakura Period: Establishment of Bakufu

## 2024 Spring Semester

	8	Sengoku Period: 3 Unifiers
5	9	Edo Period: Isolation/Sakoku
	10	<b>Mid-term Presentation: Nara to Edo</b>
6	11	<b>Mid-term Presentation: Nara to Edo</b>
	12	Bakumatsu/ Opening of Japan
7	13	Meiji period: Modernization
	14	Meiji Constitution
8	15	Rapid Industrialization
	16	Taisho Period: Taisho Democracy
9	17	Taisho Rice riots and women's liberation movement
	18	Birth of Modern Girl
10	19	Early Showa: Rise of Militarism
	20	Post war Showa: Aftermath
11	21	New Japan: Occupation
	22	Post war Development: Economic Miracle
12	23	Oil Crisis: Effects in Japan
	24	New trends in Mass Culture
13	25	Post war society and literature: Mishima Yukio
	26	Post war society and literature: Abe Kobo
14	27	Post war society and literature: Oe Kenzaburo
	28	<b>Preparatory session: Final Presentation/essay</b>
15	29	<b>Final Presentation/essay</b>
	30	<b>Course Review and Feedback</b>

### 【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                      40%              (Presentation)

Midterm Exam                    40%              (Presentation or Essay)

Class Participation              20%              (Attendance and class participation)

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.