



JA201 Japanese Society and Culture

Instructor Information	<p>Instructor: Jing AI Home Institution: Fudan University Email: aijing@fudan.edu.cn</p>		
Term	<p>June 27, 2022 - July 22, 2022</p>	Credits	4 units
Class Hours	Monday through Friday, 120mins per teaching day.		
Required Material (with ISBN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nittetsu Research Institute, JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE , TOYO PRes; 11th Edition (2019/9/9) ISBN-10 : 4930825318 - Sugimoto, Y. (2014). An introduction to Japanese society, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. ISBN-10: 0521529255 - Yoichi F. and Kushner B. eds.(2015). Examining Japan’s lost decades, Routledge. ISBN-10 :1138885754 - Shirahase, S. (2014). Social Inequality in Japan, Routledge. ISBN-10 : 0815356293 		
Prerequisite	No prerequisite. The course will be open without prerequisite to anyone with interest in modern Japanese society and culture.		



Course Overview

This course offers a broad and structured introduction to Japanese society and culture in transnational and comparative perspective.

The course will start with studying Japanese culture-specific time and space composition. For example, students will get familiar with Japanese year and era-naming system, Japanese festivals, customs and habits. After gaining sufficient social and culture context for further study, students will explore different aspects of “modern Japan” by using various methods and approaches and form a comprehensive understanding towards Japanese society and culture from various aspects, such as customs, values, traditions, and culture.

The course is to anyone with interest in modern Japanese society and culture without prerequisite. No Japan-specific knowledge is required, but an interest in social science concepts and methods will be preferable. Both lecture and discussion formats will be utilized throughout the course.

Course Goals

By the end of the semester, students will have sufficient knowledge in understanding Japanese major social and culture history and trend. Student will acquire sufficient context, tools, and confidence in understanding and studying Japanese-culture related topics they are not familiar with.

Assessment Summary

The final grade of the course is based on *Course work* (50%) and *Final project*(50%).

The course work is composed of *assignment* (30%), *lecture participation* (10%), and *workshop participation* (10%).

There will be no written exam for this course, but one individual project with one final paper (>1200 words) and a presentation on the paper is required. The grading is determined by both the written paper and the presentation.



Grading Policy

Type	Grading Criteria	Weight	Due	Length/ Required Time
2 assignments	2 assignments	30%	EoD Day7, 14	800 words
All lecture participation	attendance	10%	N/A	N/A
2 Workshop participation	presentation, contribution to discussion	10%	Day 5, 12	2 workshops
Final project	written paper, presentation	50%	Day 20	>1200 words written paper, ~10min presentation

*EoD = by the end of the day, Shanghai time

Grading Scale

Number grade	Letter grade	GPA
90-100	A	4.0
85-89	A-	3.7
80-84	B+	3.3
75-79	B	3.0
70-74	B-	2.7
67-69	C+	2.3
65-66	C	2.0
62-64	C-	1.7
60-61	D	1.0
≤59	F (Failure)	0



Class Schedule

Date	Lecture	Readings/Assignments
Day 1	Course Introduction & Japan's time and space (geography, climate, energy, historical age, Era)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE chapter 1, chapter 2
Day 2	Japanese people's 365 days and 24 hours (Annual event and daily social life)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE chapter 7(10)
Day 3	Japanese religion, and view of life and death (ceremonies of birth, adulthood, marriage and childbirth, and death, Rites of Passage in Japanese Traditional Culture)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE chapter7(9)
Day 4	Japanese eating habits and “ <i>Washoku</i> ” (traditional Japanese cuisine) as an Intangible Cultural Heritage (Home Assignment 1: Mini-survey *Japanese food around you)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE chapter7(11)
Day 5	*Workshop1 Final project proposal presentation and feedback	/
Day 6	Economy and industry (Major industries, The Bubble Economy and Lost Decades, Strategy 2030, SDGs etc.)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 4
Day 7	Population and social security (Aging and declining birthrate, pension system, long-term care system, livelihood security, medical care, public health, etc.)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 5(1)(2)(3)
Day 8	Gender (Gender equality, LGBT issues, romance and marriage, married couples' surnames, etc.)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter5(1)c,d Chapter5(2)f
Day 9	Media and public opinion (NHK, major newspapers, major TV stations, SNS, etc.)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 5(5)
Day 10	Language (multilingual policy, dialects, buzzwords, etc.)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 7(2)
Day 11	Pop culture (ACG (Animation, Comics, and Games) kawaii culture, etc. (Home Assignment 2: Mini-survey * Japanese culture around us)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 7(10)opqr Chapter 7 (13)
Day 12	*Workshop2 Final project progress presentation and research finding sharing	/
Day 13	Language (multilingual policy, dialects, buzzwords, etc.)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 7(2)



Day 14	Literature (Writers and works, Noh, Kabuki, Tea Ceremony)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 7(2)(e) (f)
Day 15	Kabuki,Noh	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 7 (4)
Day 16	Tea Ceremony	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 7(5)
Day 17	Japanese Art I-II	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 4(6)
Day 18	Japanese Art II -II	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter 4(6)
Day 19	Heritage and memory (world heritage, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, Earthquake Memorial Hall, 'Kataribe' Story Tellers)	JAPAN NIPPON THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE Chapter14
Day 20	Final presentation	