

**Japanese Society in Global Perspective/Global Japan  
SYD 4451/SYD 5656 (ASN 5932)**

Fall 2022

Thursdays 9:30-10:45, Rafael Diaz Balart 1100

Instructor:

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Office Hours and Location:

Thursday 11 AM-1 PM, SIPA 323 or Zoom (Meeting ID 601 880 4611)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This hybrid global learning course provides a sociological introduction to contemporary Japan from a global perspective. Instead of studying Japan as an isolated and homogeneous island nation, we examine its position in broader global society. The course combines reading and discussing social science literature like ethnographies analyzing social life in Japan, engaging online content and activity, and in-depth research on a student's social topic of choice. We explore pressing questions facing Japanese citizens, communities, governments, and scholars. How do we approach questions about uniqueness of Japanese society and culture? In what ways are inequality, precarity, and poverty growing in Japan? How are gender relations being transformed in Japan? How is Japanese society being impacted by demographic changes like aging and immigration? What are the experiences of immigrant communities in Japan? How is 'deviance' socially constructed and controlled in Japan? How are communities and social movement organizations addressing social problems in Japan? What is the nature of the emphasis on 'cool Japan' and 'soft power' as means to ensure and expand the country's global economy and stature? How have all of these issues been affected by the 3/11 triple disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic? This course will provide students with a strong understanding of Japanese society to bring to careers in Japan or in Japan-related fields, as well as a strong foundation for graduate research on Japanese society. Also, by exploring Japanese society, students will gain a deeper understanding of the societies in which we live, informing their careers in diverse fields and their broader lives.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- Gain in-depth, empirically-based knowledge of social issues and dynamics in contemporary Japan.
- Be able to critique "essentializing" descriptions of Japanese and other cultures and societies.
- Understand how processes of globalization are affecting contemporary Japan.
- Understand Japan's position and role in global society.

- Be able to reflect on how Japan's response to social problems related to globalization can shed light on experiences of other societies.

## GLOBAL LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Global awareness: Students will be able to demonstrate understanding of how processes of economic, demographic, and cultural globalization interact with social institutions and conditions in contemporary Japan.
  - Assessment: Online discussions will be assessed using a global learning awareness matrix to identify the extent to which the interrelatedness of multilevel causes of social issues in Japan are discussed.
- Global perspective: Students will be able to analyze how global and local social contexts interact to shape social problems in contemporary Japan.
  - Assessment: Individual term papers will be examined to assess the extent to which they assess different theoretical perspectives on a social issue. A global learning perspective rubric will be applied to these assignments.
- Global engagement: Students will be able to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of possible solutions to social problems related to globalization in contemporary Japan.
  - Assessment: Individual term papers will also be assessed according to the extent to which potential solutions to social problems are explored in the paper.

## REQUIRED TEXT

Sugimoto, Yoshio (2021). An Introduction to Japanese Society, 5th Edition. Cambridge University Press.

*For graduate students only:*

Klien, Susanne. 2020. Urban Migrants in Rural Japan: Between Agency and Anomie in a Post-growth Society. State University of New York Press. (ebook available on FIU Library website)

Abe, Marié. 2018. Resonances of Chindon-ya: Sounding Space and Sociality in Contemporary Japan. Wesleyan University Press. (ebook available on FIU Library website)

Galbraith, Patrick W. 2019. Otaku and the Struggle for Imagination in Japan. Duke University Press. (ebook available on FIU Library website)

Additional readings for term paper and related assignments will be available on-line.

## COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

### Participation

Attendance at each class meeting from start to finish is required. **However, if you are sick or have symptoms of transmissible illness (Covid or otherwise), please do not come to class.** Email me ahead of time and I will try to make class available by Zoom. I will be taking

attendance either at the beginning or at the end of class. Attendance does not simply mean showing up but showing up *prepared and on time*. Thus, you are to do all assigned readings *prior* to class. You should also be prepared to participate in discussions in class and/or to ask and answer questions about the material. Students participating in University-sanctioned events (athletes, debaters, musicians, etc.) must inform me in advance of any event that will conflict with class time and make up work they miss. Documentation must also be submitted before the event.

*For graduate students only*—you will also be required to submit a response paper for each of the three books that we read. These papers should be at least 500 words and discuss core ideas in the books and how they relate to your research interests. If making connections with your interests is difficult, you can also write up a critique, evaluation, and reaction to the main ideas and methodologies of book. These response papers will be submitted on Canvas. They should be carefully proofread.

#### Online Discussion Assignments:

Each week there will be an online discussion assignment. You must do the chapter reading and post your response to the prompt by 8 AM Wednesday. Your post must address all aspects of the prompt, use concepts and information from the readings, be at least 500 words in length, and be written at a college level and proofread for grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

#### Term Paper and Assignments:

The term paper will be a social science literature review paper developed around a topic and research question of your interest. Your paper will be focused on Japanese society but will address a social issue of global import (for example, immigration, gender, inequality, etc.). You will use at least 5 scholarly sources (10 for graduate students) to develop a theoretically organized review of major research on a specific, sociological research question. Your paper is to be around 3,000 words, not including references (5,000 words for graduate students). There will be the following assignments (dates are below in the class schedule) that will guide you through completion of the paper. Some assignments will be done in class, but most will involve submitting material via Canvas. Late assignments will not be accepted.

- A. Library Exercise
- B. How to Read Research Articles/Books
- C. Sociological Topic and Question
- D. Literature Review References 1<sup>st</sup> Draft (Peer Review)
- E. Literature Review References 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft
- F. Theoretical Perspectives
- G. Evidence/Support
- H. Outlining
- I. First Draft
- J. Second Draft

I will provide a more complete explanation of the paper and these assignments early in the course.

### Presentation

All students will be giving a brief presentation (around 15 minutes) on their term paper. You can use presentation software (Powerpoint, Keynote, etc.) and other visual aids. I will go over some ways to make effective presentations in class.

Graduate students will also make a presentation and lead a discussion on one of the books assigned to them. In the presentation, the graduate student should explain the main points of the book in a manner that undergraduates will understand and lead a discussion. All graduate students are required to comment and respond to questions on all books assigned. Graduate students should email the professor during the first week of class to state a preferred book (of the three assigned) on which to present. Depending on enrollment, graduate students will collaborate on presentations/discussions.

### Grading

Term Paper	30
Term Paper Assignments	20
Paper Presentation	20
Online Discussions	20
Participation	10
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TOTAL	100 points

### **LATE WORK/INCOMPLETE**

Late work/incompletes without legitimate and documented excuses will not be allowed.

### **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

*DO NOT EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!*

Please consult the section on “Academic Misconduct” in the annual *Student Handbook* for definitions of both. I will have you submit all papers to Turnitin.com to identify cases of plagiarism (direct copying of text from books, on-line resources, etc. without proper citation, submitting papers from other courses). In all cases of cheating and plagiarism, I will follow the university protocols on reporting.

## COURSE OUTLINE

*IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!*

### Week 1: Historical Backdrop: Disintegration and Restoration

Before class: Read Chapter 1 and do Discussion Assignment 1 on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Urban Migrants, introduction*)

In class: Introduction to the course

### Week 2: The Japanese Phenomenon: Analysis and Understanding

Before class: Read Chapter 2 and do Discussion Assignment 2 on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Urban Migrants, Chs. 1-3*)

In class: Introduction to the term paper

### Week 3: Class: Stratification and Disparity

Before class: Read Chapter 3 and do Discussion Assignment 3 on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Urban Migrants, Chs. 4-6*)

In class: Library Exercise (**Term Paper Assignment A**) Meet in GL 280

### Week 4): Generations and Geography: Variations in an Aging Society

Before class: Read Chapter 4 and the reading for Term Paper Assignment B, do Discussion Assignment 4 and submit Term Paper Assignment A on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Urban Migrants, Chs. 7 and conclusion, and submit response paper on Canvas*)

In class: How to Read a Research Article/Book (**Term Paper Assignment B**), Graduate Presentation and Class Discussion 1 (Urban Migrants in Rural Japan)

### Week 5: Work: 'Japanese Style' Management and Cultural Capitalism

Before class: Read Chapter 5 and the reading for Term Paper Assignment C, do Discussion Assignment 5 and submit Term Paper Assignment B on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Resonances of Chindon-ya, prologue and introduction*)

In class: Sociological Topic and Question (**Term Paper Assignment C**)

Week 6: Education: Diversity and Unity

Before class: Read Chapter 6 and do Discussion Assignment 6 and submit Term Paper C Assignment on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Resonances of Chindon-ya, Chs. 1-2*)

In class: Literature Review References 1st Draft (**Term Paper Assignment D**)

Week 7: Gender and Family: Changes to Ideology

Before class: Read Chapter 7 and do Discussion Assignment 7 and submit Term Paper D Assignment on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Resonances of Chindon-ya, Chs. 3-4*)

In class: Literature Review References 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft (**Term Paper Assignment E**)

Week 8: Ethnicity and Japaneseness: Defining the Nation

Before class: Read Chapter 8 and do Discussion Assignment 8 and submit Term Paper E Assignment on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Resonances of Chindon-ya, Ch. 5 and epilogue, and submit response paper on Canvas*)

In class: Graduate Presentation and Discussion 2 (Resonances of Chindon-ya)

Week 9: The Establishment: Competition and Collusion

Before class: Read Chapter 9 and do Discussion Assignment 9 on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Otaku and the Struggle for Imagination, introduction and Chs. 1-2*)

In class: Theoretical Perspectives (**Term Paper Assignment F**)

Week 10: Religion: Belief and Secularization

Before class: Read Chapter 10 and do Discussion Assignment 10 and turn in Term Paper Assignment F on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Otaku and the Struggle for Imagination, Chs. 3-4*)

In class: Evidence and Support (**Term Paper Assignment G**)

Week 11 Culture: The Popular and the Cool

Before class: Read Chapter 11 and do Discussion Assignment 11 and turn in Term Paper Assignment G on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday (*graduate students read Otaku and the Struggle for Imagination, Ch. 5 and conclusion, and submit response paper on Canvas*)

In class: Graduate Presentation and Discussion 3 (Otaku and the Struggle for Imagination in Japan)

Week 12 Civil Society: Activism and Friendly Authoritarianism

Before class: Read Chapter 12 and do Discussion Assignment 11 on Canvas by 8 AM Wednesday

In class: Outlining (**Term Paper Assignment H**)

Week 13 Paper Draft Discussions

Before class: Submit Term Paper Assignment F by 8 AM Wednesday

In class: Peer-review of outlines, First Draft (**Term Paper Assignment I**), and overview of presentation assignment and techniques

**(No meeting during Thanksgiving week)**

Week 14 Graduate Presentations

Before class: Submit Second Draft (**Term Paper Assignment J**) by 8 AM Wednesday

In class: Graduate student presentations, attendance by all is required

Week 15 (Finals Week) Undergraduate Presentations

In class: Undergraduate student presentations, attendance by all is required

Term paper due on Canvas by 11:59 PM Friday