

Course Syllabus

 Edit

Japanese Society in Global Perspective/Global Japan

SYD 4451/SYD 5656 (ASN 5932)

Fall 2024

Thursdays 2:00-3:15 PM, PG Market Station 134

Instructor:

Matthew D. Marr, Ph.D.

Associate Professor

FIU Global and Sociocultural Studies, Asian Studies

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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 leave 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 they 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 (there are e-book versions of these accessible for free on the FIU Library website):

Saito, Kohei (2024). *Slow Down: The Degrowth Manifesto*. Astra House.

Morimoto, Ryo. (2023). *Nuclear Ghost: Atomic Livelihoods in Fukushima's Gray Zone*. University of California Press.

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 and is worth one point. However, if you are sick or have symptoms of transmissible illness (Covid or otherwise), please do not come to class. If you let me know before the class you miss, your absence will be excused and you will receive your one point for attendance. 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.

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 Thursday.

Students are required to post a reflection in response to the instructor's discussion questions. You will post your response to the questions for that particular week. **You will need to read the assigned chapter readings before posting in order to demonstrate your knowledge of key concepts.**

A point about the elephant in the room (AI)...

I strongly recommend that you do not use AI at all for any assignment in this class. Developing strong analytical and writing skills is crucial for any career and being an informed citizen. My honest opinion is that relying on AI is wasting time in college. Also, I feel a bit disrespected when students submit material clearly generated by AI. I am genuinely interested in reading your perspectives, so submit your original writing proudly!

Each student's reflection will be graded according to the following rubric. Points will be deducted if the post fails to meet the following criteria. If your post fails to meet multiple criteria, or fails to meet a criteria in an extreme manner, you will likely receive 0 to 5 points.

- **Originality: the posts must be written without the use of AI.** If you use unassigned materials, be sure to cite and list them.
- **Relevance to assigned material:** the posted ideas indicate that the student has read the assigned material. **You must use at least two terms or concepts from the assigned readings for that module and highlight them. Terms in the title of the chapters do not count.**
- **Clarity, coherence:** the ideas are stated clearly and coherently.
- **Critical thinking:** there is evidence that the student has adequately analyzed, synthesized, and evaluated the assigned material.
- **Poses a discussion question about the assigned material or draws a connection between a current event or personal experience and the assigned material.**
- **Spelling, grammar:** the posting must meet university-level standards of spelling and grammar. Be sure to break up your post into paragraphs for clarity.
- **Length:** the initial posting for each weekly module must be no less than 500 words. **Be sure to do a word count before submitting it.**

For graduate students only—you will also be required to submit a response paper for each of the 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.

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 1st Draft (Peer Review)
- E. Literature Review References 2nd Draft
- F. Theoretical Perspectives
- G. Evidence/Support
- H. Outlining/First Draft
- I. 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.

For graduate students only-- You will also make a presentation and lead a discussion on at least one of the books assigned. In the presentation, the graduate student should explain the main points of the book in a manner that undergraduates will understand (around 20 minutes) and lead a discussion (around 15 minutes). 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	(9)	20
Paper Presentation		20
Online Discussions	(12)	20
Participation	(15 meetings)	10
TOTAL		100 points

LATE WORK/INCOMPLETE

Late work without legitimate and documented excuses will have points deducted.

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 (use of AI, 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 Thursday

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 Thursday

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 Thursday

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 Thursday (*graduate students submit response paper on Canvas*)

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

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 Thursday

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 Thursday

In class: Literature Review References 1st Draft (**Term Paper Assignment D**, will be graded in class)--
be sure to bring an electronic or paper copy of your references to class to share with a classmate

Week 7: Gender and Family: Changes to Ideology

Before class: Read Chapter 7 and do Discussion Assignment 7 on Canvas by 8 AM Thursday

In class: Literature Review References 2nd 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 Thursday

In class: Graduate Presentation and Discussion 2

Week 9: The Establishment: Competition and Collusion

Before class: Read Chapter 9 and do Discussion Assignment 9 on Canvas by 8 AM Thursday

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 Thursday

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 Thursday

In class: Graduate Presentation and Discussion 3

Week 12 Civil Society: Activism and Friendly Authoritarianism

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

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

Week 13 Paper Draft Discussions

Before class: Submit Term Paper Assignment H by 8 AM Thursday

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

(No meeting during Thanksgiving week)

Week 14 Presentations

Before class: Submit Second Draft (**Term Paper Assignment I**) by 8 AM Thursday












In class: Student presentations, attendance by all is required












Week 15 (Finals Week) Presentations













In class: Student presentations, attendance by all is required












Term paper due on Canvas by 11:59 PM Sunday

Course Summary:

Date	Details	Due
Thu Aug 29, 2024	 Discussion 1 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757025	due by 8am
Thu Sep 5, 2024	 Discussion 2 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757026	due by 8am
Thu Sep 12, 2024	 Discussion 3 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757027	due by 8am
Thu Sep 12, 2024	 Term Paper Assignment A: Library Exercise https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757054	due by 11:59pm
Thu Sep 19, 2024	 Discussion 4 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757024	due by 8am
Thu Sep 19, 2024	 Graduate Student Response Paper 1 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757050 (1248-FIU01-ASN-5932-SECU01-86943)	due by 8am
Thu Sep 19, 2024	 Graduate Student Response Paper 1 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757050 (1248-FIU01-SYD-5656-SECU01-86940)	due by 8am
Thu Sep 26, 2024	 Discussion 5 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2884256	due by 8am
Thu Sep 26, 2024	 Term Paper Assignment B: How to Read a Research Article/Book https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757055	due by 8am
Thu Oct 3, 2024	 Discussion 6 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2884258	due by 8am
Thu Oct 3, 2024	 Term Paper Assignment C: Sociological Research Question	due by 8am

Date	Details	Due
	https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757056	
	 Term Paper Assignment D: Literature Review References First Draft https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757057	due by 11:59pm
	 Discussion 7 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2884259	due by 8am
Thu Oct 10, 2024	 Term Paper Assignment E: Literature Review References Revised Draft https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757058	due by 8am
	 Discussion 8 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2884289	due by 8am
Thu Oct 17, 2024	 Graduate Student Response Paper 2 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757051 (1248-FIU01-ASN-5932-SECU01-86943)	due by 8am
	 Graduate Student Response Paper 2 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757051 (1248-FIU01-SYD-5656-SECU01-86940)	due by 8am
Thu Oct 24, 2024	 Discussion 9 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2885802	due by 8am
	 Discussion 10 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2885832	due by 8am
Thu Oct 31, 2024	 Term Paper Assignment F: Theoretical Perspectives https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757059	due by 8am
Thu Nov 7, 2024	 Discussion 11 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2885936	due by 8am
	 Graduate Student Response Paper 3 https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757052	due by 8am

Date	Details	Due
	(1248-FIU01-ASN-5932-SECU01-86943)	
	 <u>Graduate Student Response Paper 3</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757052 (1248-FIU01-SYD-5656-SECU01-86940)	due by 8am
	 <u>Term Paper Assignment G: Evidence and Support</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757060	due by 8am
Thu Nov 14, 2024	 <u>Discussion 12</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757023	due by 8am
Thu Nov 21, 2024	 <u>Term Paper Assignment H: Outline/First Draft</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757061	due by 11:59pm
Thu Dec 5, 2024	 <u>Term Paper Assignment I: Second Draft</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757062	due by 8am
Thu Dec 12, 2024	 <u>Term Paper Presentation</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757064	due by 11:59pm
Sat Dec 14, 2024	 <u>Term Paper Final Draft</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757063	due by 11:59pm
	 <u>10/10</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757031	
	 <u>10/17</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757028	
	 <u>10/24</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757029	
	 <u>10/3</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757040	
	 <u>10/31</u> https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757030	

Date	Details	Due
	 11/14 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757032)	
	 11/21 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757034)	
	 11/7 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757033)	
	 12/12 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2884026)	
	 12/5 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757035)	
	 8/29 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757036)	
	 9/12 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757041)	
	 9/19 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757038)	
	 9/26 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757039)	
	 9/5 (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2757037)	
	 Syllabus Quiz (https://fiu.instructure.com/courses/206464/assignments/2883992)	