




Fall 2024

COURSE: Japanese Culture and Society, JA217 (3-credit)

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course introduces issues in contemporary Japanese society and examines how social and cultural factors influence social behaviors of the Japanese.

Instructor: Yuka Iwata, Ph.D.
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 Office: HSS 120B
 Phone: 671-735-2804
 Classroom: HSS 106
 Moodle: 
 Time: T/Th 11:00-12:20
 Office Hours: See Moodle

CLASS FORMAT: **Hybrid F2F**

We have both face-to-face (F2F) sessions on campus and online instructions. During the F2F sessions, we explore the cultural values, attitudes, and behaviors of Japanese people through activities such as sharing recent news, quizzes, discussions, and presentations. In the asynchronous online classes, we delve into contemporary Japanese society and its development through reading textbook chapters, handouts and watching lecture videos posted on Moodle.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

- *An Introduction to Japanese Society* (5th edition), Sugimoto
- *The Japanese Mind: Understanding Contemporary Japanese Culture*, Davis & Ikeno
- Online reading materials (available on Moodle)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Institutional Learning Outcomes	Program Learning Outcomes	Course Learning Outcomes	Methods of Assessment
1. Mastery of critical thinking and problem solving 3. Effective oral and written communication 4. Understanding and appreciation of culturally diverse people, ideas and values in a democratic context 5. Responsible use of knowledge, natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn how culture and social entities influence or interact social behaviors ▪ Develop a broad understanding of main themes in contemporary Japanese culture and society ▪ Raise intellectual curiosity about Japan in relation to other societies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discuss various issues in the formation in Japanese society from the modern to the contemporary period ▪ Examine ideas and thoughts shaped by Japanese tradition ▪ Demonstrate culturally appropriate manners 	Attendance/participation Lecture Discussion Presentations Cultural observation/demonstrations (videos) Quizzes

resources, and technology 6. An appreciation of the arts and sciences 7. An interest in personal development and lifelong learning	• Gain intercultural and reflective understanding of the social and cultural issues in a globalized environment		
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COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to familiarize students with how social and cultural aspects affect individual's linguistic and social behaviors by examining the basic structure of Japanese society and the foundations of Japanese culture.

TOPICS COVERED:

Japanese Society

- Generations & Geography
- Modern History of Japan (from 1603 to present)
- Class: Stratification & Disparity
- Work: Japanese-style management and cultural capitalism
- Education: Diversity & Unity
- Gender & Family
- Brief History of the Japanese Language
- Japanese Communication Styles

Japanese Culture

- Japanese sense of seasons, *kisetsu*
- The *do* spirit of Japan
- Private vs. public stance in Japan, *honne* vs. *tatemae*
- Dual meanings in human relations, *uchi to soto*
- Japanese patience and determination, *ganbari*
- Japanese group consensus, *shuudan ishiki*
- Seniority rules in relations, *senpai to kohai*
- The Japanese virtue of modesty; *kenkyo*
- The Japanese *ie* system
- Arranged marriage, *miai*
- The social expectations of women, *ryoosaikenb*
- Silence in Japanese communication, *chinmoku*
- Ambiguity and the Japanese, *aimai*
- Japanese custom of gift giving, *zootoo*

EVALUATION PROCEDURES: Students' grades are determined based on the following criteria.

Attendance & Completion of course work	10%
Discussion (including "Recent News")	10%
Homework	20%
Quizzes	30%
Presentation	30%

A+ (97-100), A (93-96), A- (90-92) B+ (87-89), B (83-86), B- (80-82) C+ (77-79), C (70-76), D (60-69) F (<59)
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ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION (F2F)

In F2F sessions, we discuss key concepts related to the social issues introduced in the previous online class and explore various aspects of Japanese culture. Class participation and attendance are required.

- Late Arrival: If you are late by 15 minutes or more, 0.5 point will be deducted.
- Absences: If your total absences exceed more than 3 days, you will be asked to withdraw from this course or receive an F grade.
- Unexcused Absences: **You don't need to report or email the reasons for your unexcused absences at all.** However, for unavoidable and legitimate absences (see page 5 for Criteria

of Excused or Unexcused Absences/Reasons), submit an official document such as doctor's note, notification of jury duty, etc. starting from your **second absence**.

PARTICIPATION/COMPLETION OF COURSEWORK (ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE)

You are assigned to complete online coursework. All assigned online coursework must be completed and submitted before 11:59 p.m. on the due date to receive full participation points. Please check the course schedule for specific details.

RECENT NEWS:

At the beginning of F2F class, students are given opportunities to share **any** news and events related to Japan.

HOMEWORK:

After participating in the in-class group discussion on Japanese culture, you will be asked to answer one of the questions posted on Moodle after the topic has been introduced in class. You will have four days to submit your response online. Please refer to the schedule for due dates.

QUIZZES:

In F2F classes, there will be 10 quizzes to check your understanding of Japanese society. Each quiz comprises 10 multiple-choice questions. **No make-up quizzes will be provided** under any circumstances, but at the end of the semester, the lowest-scored quiz will be dropped.

PRESENTATIONS:

You will be assigned to a presentation. Further details and presentation guidelines will be provided in class.

CHEATING & PLAGIARISM:

The quizzes are NOT open-book, and students are prohibited from using textbooks or notes of any kind during quizzes. Any student found copying someone else's work will receive no grade for the assignment. A grade of "F" will be given for a second offense. If you utilize someone else's information to support your ideas or arguments and paraphrase them in your own words, remember to cite the sources, including the author's name, title of the source, and publication year. This practice helps distinguish between your ideas and those of others, thereby avoiding plagiarism.

PROSPECTIVE AI STATEMENT LANGUAGE:

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a research tool is allowed, but it must not replace the student's original ideas, creativity, and critical thinking. AI should be used only as a tool to assist in research, and proper attribution must be given to any AI-generated content. All work submitted for grading must be the sole product of the student's endeavors. Any violation of academic integrity will be dealt with accordingly.

Example of attribution language:

The author generated this text in part with GPT-3, OpenAI's large-scale language-generation model. Upon generating draft language, the author reviewed, edited, and revised the language to their own liking and takes ultimate responsibility for the content of this publication."

CLASS RULES and EXPECTATIONS:

Read the assigned book chapters or reading materials (posted on Moodle) and watch lecture videos on Moodle before each class.

(In Class)

- Arrive **on time** for face-to-face classes.
- Ensure that your cell phone is set to silence mode.
- Bring your own materials (such as textbooks and pencils) to avoid inconveniencing your classmate.
- Show respect to others, including the instructor and your classmates. Behaviors such as chatting in English, using inappropriate language, or texting during class are not acceptable.

(After Class)

- Take time to review the material covered in class.
- Review key topics or questions from the lecture videos on society to prepare for class discussion and upcoming quizzes.
- Complete your homework on culture and submit it by the due dates.

Other expectation

-If you submit any printed homework placing it in the mailbox, you have to obtain a "Received" stamp from the division secretary to confirm acknowledgement.

ADA ACCOMMODATION:

*For individuals covered under the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act), if you are a **student** with a disability requiring academic accommodation(s), please contact the Student Counseling and Advising Service Disability Support Services Office to discuss your confidential request. A Faculty Notification letter from the Disability Support Services/Student Counseling and Advising Service Accommodation counselor will be provided to me. To register for academic accommodations, please contact or visit Sallie S. Sablan, DSS counselor in the School of Education, office 110, disabilitysupport@triton.uog.edu or telephone/TDD 671-735-2460.*

If you have any questions or any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the instructor.

