

Sociology 4438(section 001)/ 6438(section 001)
3 credit hours
Japanese Society
Spring 2014
Time: Tuesday & Thursday 9:10-10:30am
Location: BEH S 115



Instructor: Dr. Akiko Kamimura, Ph.D., M.S.W., M.A.

Office: 314 BEH S

Phone: 801-581-7858

E-mail: akiko.kamimura@soc.utah.edu

• **I prefer to only be contacted through Canvas email.**

Office Hours: By appointment

Course description:

This course introduces the student various aspects of Japanese society and culture. The focus of this course is the post-World War II period, mainly after 1980. The topics include, but not limited to, class and stratification, education, globalization, firms and management, natural disasters, migration, minority groups, health policy, religion, ritual, festivals, traditional and popular culture, and sports. The course does not require knowledge of Japanese language.

Objectives:

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

- Describe Japanese society and culture
- Understand what is and is not unique about Japanese society and culture
- Address changes occurring in Japanese culture and society during the late 20th or early 21st century
- Think critically about a wide range of perspectives of Japanese society and culture

Teaching and learning methods:

Teaching strategies include lecture and discussion. Students are expected to read course materials prior to the class, raise questions, and come prepared to discuss the issues on topics of the day.

Grading:

Undergraduate students

Weekly assignments: 60 points (4 points*15)

Presentation 15 points

Class participation and attendance: 25 points

Total 100 points

Graduate students

Presentations: 60 points (15 points*4)

Final paper: 20 points
Class participation and attendance: 20 points
Total 100 points
Grading Scale:
100-92.5 points: A
92-89.5 points A-
89-86.5 points B+
86-82.5 points B
82-79.5 points B-
79-76.5 points C+
76-72.5 points C
72-69.5 points C-
69-66.5 points D+
66-62.5 points D
62-59.5 points D-
59 and below E

Class attendance/participation:

One point deduction per one missed class. The first two missed activities will not affect total points. A make-up will be considered only if the student submits a note from a hospital or other PROFESSIONAL individual or organization (up to twice per semester). A make-up will include additional reading materials and a brief paper. A make-up must be completed within 2 weeks after the class activity. (Students need to submit a note from professional individual/organization before they start a make-up process.) No texting in class – A student texting in class is not considered attended/participated in the class. Class disruptions will be a subject of point deduction from your participation grade.

Assignments/paper/presentations:

All assignments are to be completed on Canvas. **No late assignment or paper will be accepted.**
No make-up or bonus points.

Undergraduate students

Weekly assignments (60 points- 4 points*15)

Single-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 pts) or text entry on Canvas

The student can see any course materials and own class notes but should not collaborate with or seek help from other people. If the student uses materials outside of the course, the source should be properly cited.

Due: 8 am on Wednesday for the topic(s) of the previous week (except for the last assignment- due April 25 (F) at 8am)

Presentation (15 points)

Presentation topic due 8am Jan 22 (Wed)

Graduate students

Presentations (4 presentations, 60 points in total):

The last presentation will be based on a final paper.

Final paper (20 points)

12-15 pages

Double-spaced (Times New Roman, 12 pts)

One inch margin

Title and your name on the first page

Page numbers

References at the end of paper (not included in paper count)

Presentation topic due (for the first three presentations) 8am Jan 22 (Wed)

Paper topic due 8 am Feb 5 (Wed)

Paper draft due 8 am Mar 5 (Wed)

Final paper due 8 am Apr 25 (Fri)

Readings:

All reading materials are available on Canvas.

Faculty and student responsibilities:

All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.

The student must understand and be familiar with the University of Utah Student Code

<http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>.

The failure to comply with the student code, including academic misconduct, may result in the serious consequence such as failure in the course, and/or expulsion from the university.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Statement: The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services (CDS), 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.

Class and Reading Schedule:

***This outline is tentative and subject to change at any time. There may be guest lectures or guests from Japan.**

Jan 7 (Tue) Introduction to the course

Jan 9 (Thu) Introduction to Japan

Jan 14 (Tue) Geographical and generational variations

Jan 16 (Thu) Social classes

Jan 21 (Tue) Family structure

Jan 23 (Thu) Social problems

Jan 28 (Tue) Minorities – *Ainu, Okinawan, Burakumin*

Jan 30 (Thu) Globalization of Japan

Feb 4 (Tue) Migrant groups 1: From Asia – e.g. Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese

Feb 6 (Thu) Migrant groups 2: From Latin America – e.g. Brazilian, Peruvian

Feb 11 (Tue) Education system

Feb 13 (Thu) Higher education

Feb 18 (Tue) Traditional games

Feb 20 (Thu) Sports1: media, baseball vs soccer, community and sports

Feb 25 (Tue) Sports2: Olympics (Sochi 2014, Tokyo 1964 & 2020, Sapporo 1972, Nagano 1998)

Feb 27 (Thu) Anime 1: history, female characters, songs

Mar 4 (Tue) Anime 2: Dr. Lien Fan Shen (Film and Media Arts) “Japanese anime”

Mar 6 (Thu) Guests from Japan Women’s University

[Spring Break]

Mar 18 (Tue) Management & Human resources

Mar 20 (Thu) Companies

Mar 25 (Tue) Religion, ritual and festivals

Mar 27 (Thu) Traditional culture

Apr 1 (Tue) Natural disasters

Apr 3 (Thu) Environment

Apr 8 (Tue) health system

Apr 10 (Thu) health problems, healthy life style

Apr 15 (Tue) Rights and legal process

Apr 17 (Thu) Undergraduate student presentations

Apr 22 (Tue) Graduate student presentations

Updated 10/12/2013