

Subject

Special Topics in International Exchange-Introduction to Contemporary Japanese [Spring]

Subject numbering

INTR1000

Lecturer

Shinohara Chika

Laboratory: St. Andrew Hall 6F Room 614

Office hours: Lunch break on Tuesdays and Fridays or by appointment

Email address:

Number of credits

2 credit(s)

Tentative List of Topics to be Presented

This course, Introduction to Contemporary Japanese Society/Sociology, is intended to help students gain a basic sociological understanding of Japanese society. We will examine the wider social patterns and developments characterizing Japan through different segments of society and life-courses of the peoples living in Japan. Topics to be covered include social class and stratification, ethnic and regional diversity, education and work, work-family-gender, religion and culture, and civil society. This course focuses on globalization and diversity as two core elements for sociological studies of Japan.

Course Objectives:

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

- Develop critical thinking skills and sociological theoretical perspectives on Japanese society;
- Learn and comprehend social issues around diverse peoples living in Japan;
- Understand transforming cultures and structures of Japan in globalization.

Course preparations are required for each class attendance.

- 1) Readings (1-2 specified articles or chapters/week)
- 2) Group Discussion Leading/Semester (a 1-page handout with discussion questions)
- 3) Paper Presentation (an oral presentation and handouts)
- 4) Literature Review Paper (Topic, Question, Reference List, Outline, 1st draft, Final Paper...etc.)

1. Introduction
2. Sociology of Japan - Social Issues and Phenomenon
3. Social Class and Stratification
4. Sociological Literature on Japan
5. Geographical and Generational Variations
6. Education and Work
7. Gender Stratification and the Family System
8. Gender Roles, Sexuality, and Work
9. Ethnicity and Japaneseness
10. Migration and Minority Groups
11. Religions and Traditions
12. Popular and Diverse Cultures
13. Civil Society and Social Movements
14. Presentation Day1
15. Presentation Day2 and Conclusion

Evaluation

Examination: %

Report: %

Others: %

You will demonstrate your critical thinking and understanding of this course with

- 1) a variety of in-class assignments including group discussions (40%),
- 2) a presentation of your project (20%), and
- 3) a literature review paper (40%).

Textbooks & Suggested References

Yoshio Sugimoto "An Introduction to Japanese Society (Fifth Edition)" Cambridge University Press

Main textbook for this course

[References]

Tosh Minohara (ed.). 2024. Handbook of Japan's Foreign and Domestic Policies during the Decade of Abe. MHM. ISBN: 9784909286321

Other reading materials will be provided in class or via the Moodle Course Site.

Keywords

Introduction to Sociology, Japan, globalization, gender, migration

Class Time

Friday 3rd period