ASIAN STUDIES 1215
JAPANESE SOCIETY AND CULTURE

Langara College
Fall 2011
Thursday 18:30-21:20
Room: B248

Instructor: Dr. Nariko Takayanagi-Heine
Office: B 247-o
Office Hour: Thursday 17:30-18:30 or by appointment
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Course Description:
This course is a survey of modern Japanese life with special attention given to social organization and cultural patterns and behavior. Topics include religion, family, education, gender and ethnic relations, class and other inequalities, and the influence of globalization.

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of the course, successful students will:
1. Acquire basic Japanese cultural concepts as analytical tools to obtain cross-cultural awareness, perspectives, and an understanding of Japanese people’s behaviors and ways of thinking.
2. Have a better understanding of social institutions and their influence on people’s everyday lives in Japan.
3. Acquire basic knowledge of social changes and development in post-war Japan.
4. Develop critical thinking and analytical skills by examining Japanese society and culture using an interdisciplinary approach.

Course Policies and Expectations:
1. Attendance and participation to all classes is essential. Students who miss quizzes will not have the opportunity to do them again, and their grade will be adjusted accordingly.
2. Academic dishonesty, such as cheating and plagiarism, will not be tolerated. It is the student’s responsibility to read and understand the students’ disciplinary policies in Langara.
3. Students must fulfill all the required assignments in order to pass this course.
4. All handout materials distributed in class are also required reading. It is essential that students attend all classes.

Required Readings:
All handout materials
ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Participation & Attendance 15%
Quizzes/Assignments 30% (The worst score of four will be dropped)
Mid Term 25%
Final Exam 30%
Total 100%

A+: 90-100 A: 85-89 A-: 80-84 B+: 77-79 B: 74-76 B-: 70-73
C+: 66-69 C: 60-65 C-: 55-59 D: 50-54 F: 0-49

Course Content

Week 1 (9/8): Introduction: Geography, Demography, Language and History
    <Hendry: Introduction & Chp 1>


Week 5 (10/6): Family System: ie-system, Gender Roles, Child-Rearing <Hendry: Chp 2, Article: Hikikomori> Quiz 2

Week 6 (10/13): Religious Influences: Major Religions, Role of Religion in Rituals and Everyday Life <Hendry: Chp 7 & 8>

Week 7 (10/20): Education: Characteristics of Educational Systems, School lives <Hendry: Chp 5> MidTerm

Week 8 (10/27): Work: Workers' Lives, Work Organization, Work Ethic, Gender and work <Hendry: Chapter 9>

Week 9 (11/3): Community Life and Social Control: Crime Rate, Characteristics of Social Order, Yakuza, Police System <Hendry: Chapter 4 & 12, Article: Yakuza>

Week 10 (11/10) Minority People and Foreign Residents (Ethnic/Racial Minority people, Foreign Residents, Immigration, Migration) <Hendry: pp107-114, Article: Creighton> Quiz 3


Week 12 (11/24): Gender and Sexuality Femininity, Masculinity, Changing lifestyle and Gender Roles, Gender Ambiguity, Cross-Dressing, Gay People <Article: Kinsella, McLalland>

Cultural Words from *The Japanese Mind*.

Please make sure to read the relevant pages before you come to the class. We will have class and group discussion on these concepts.

**Week 2:** Social Structure  
Shudan Ishiki, Uchi/Soto, Zoto,

**Week 3**  
**Interpersonal Communication**  
Aimai, Chinmoku, Haragei, Hedateru to Najimu, Honne to Tatema, Sempai/Kohai, Nemawashi

**Week 4:** Psychology  
Amae, Gambari, Giri, Kenkyo

**Week 5:** Family  
The Japanese Ie system, Ikuji, Omiai, Ryosai Kenbo,

**Week 6:** Religion  
Soshiki,

**Week 11:** Entertainment  
Bigaku, the Do Spirit, Itoko Dori, Kisetsu, Wabi-Sabi

**Week 12:** Gender  
Danjyo Kosai,