622 Japanese Culture and East Asia

1. Date and Time
Wed 1st period (8:45~10:15).

2. General Description
This is an introduction to the formation of modern and contemporary Japanese culture(s) in the context of East Asian histories and cultures.

3. Course Content
This is a discussion-based seminar on Japanese culture(s). It is topical, covering themes including: gender, music and film, television, and consumer (pop) culture.
Each week, you will be responsible for reading all of the readings and for submitting a précis on at least one. This is preparation for class discussion (participation is part of your grade) and for a final project, described separately. Additionally, you will lead discussion at least once, and present (5-10”) on your final project in the second half of the semester.

Course Site
https://www.coursesites.com/s/_622F16
All course materials and communication will be conducted through the site. You must enroll ASAP. Use the code “sparklemuffin” (no quotes) when prompted.

Schedule
The following is a tentative schedule. It will be revised based on student enrolment.
Wk 1: Introduction
Wk 2~10: Japanese Culture(s) and East Asia
Wk 11~12: Presentations
Wk 13: Wrap-up
Wk 14: TBA
Assignments
The work in this course is not limited to reading and discussion. You will need to, at the very least:

1. **Lead discussion** at least once
   - Discussion leaders will be assigned in advance, and will meet with me for about one hour prior to class (by appointment) to prepare. Specifics will vary according to student enrolment, but you will work with at least one partner. Guidelines provided separately.

2. **Produce a final project**
   - You may write a traditional seminar research paper (10-15 pages; 15-25 for grad students), but I would prefer that you propose a creative project taking advantage of your unique talents and interests. Write an app, make a movie, curate an exhibit online or off, build a model, etc. Group projects are encouraged (coauthored papers are not, in principle). Guidelines provided separately.

3. **Make a presentation of a “draft” version of your final project**
   - Present your work to the class at the end of the term. Specifics will vary according to student enrolment. Guidelines provided separately.

4. **Submit précis weekly**
   - A précis is a kind of *academic* summary, different from a summary of the piece itself. It is a tightly focused summary of the argument expressed by a piece of academic writing. Guidelines provided separately.
4. Textbook
No textbook is required for this class. All readings will be provided electronically as PDFs, etc., or reserved at the library. Reading topics are listed in the Reading section at the conclusion of this syllabus.

5. Reference Materials
To supplement your knowledge of Japanese history as needed, I recommend the library’s electronic copy of:

6. Evaluation
Participation 10%
Weekly précis 25%
Discussion leader 10%
Presentation 15%
Project 40%

For reference, be aware that B is “good.” Impress me and you get an A, disappoint me and you’re looking at a C at best.

Email me a picture/video of a sparklemuffin to earn bonus points.
7. Readings

1. Getting it Right, Getting it Wrong

2. Appropriation and Authenticity


Optional

5. Gender
• Louie, Kam. “Popular Culture and Masculinity Ideals in East Asia, with Special Reference to China.” The Journal of Asian Studies 71, no. 04 (November 2012): 929–43.
• Wai-hung Yiu, and Alex Ching-shing Chan. “‘Kawaii’ and ‘Moe’—Gazes, Geeks (Otaku), and Glocalization of Beautiful Girls (Bishōjo) in Hong Kong Youth Culture.” Positions 21, no. 4 (Fall 2013): 853–84.

Optional
6. **Nature and Rural Japan**

7. **Food**

8. **Music and Film**
9. **Pop Culture and Consumerism**


**Optional**


10. **TV Dramas**

- And one of the following:
• Lee, Dong-Hoo. “Cultural Contact With Japanese TV Dramas: Modes of Reception and Narrative Transparency.” 251–74.