Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

Spring 2023

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| Course Title ( Credits ) | LAI206 Japanese Popular Culture (3 credits) |
| Course Designation for TC |  |
| Content Teacher |
| Instructor | Debra J Occhi, PhD, RYT |
| E-mail address | docchi@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | 2-206 |
| Office hours | TBA |
| Language Teacher |
| Instructor | Same as above |
| E-mail address |  |
| Office/Ext |  |
| Office hours |  |

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| Course Description: |
| A theoretical examination of how popular culture is used to construct identity within Japanese society. The course will examine Japanese popular culture through various perspectives such as behaviors and consumption practices, historical issues, aesthetics, and communication. |
| Course Goals/Objectives: |
| In preparation for study abroad, students will critically consider Japanese popular culture and their place therein. This course will help students…with content:* to better understand Japanese popular culture and the idea of culture in general
* to develop their awareness of aesthetics, communication, and meaning in cultural practices
* to become familiar with different kinds of information sources about popular culture
* to build their understanding of vocabulary and concepts related to Japanese society and culture

with English:* to express your yourself with confidence, fluency and accuracy in speaking and writing
* to understand authentic English audio/visual and written materials
* to strengthen skills in writing cohesive multi-paragraph essays
* to acquire general academic and social science vocabulary and high frequency words
* to broaden your understanding of natural expressions in academic discourse
* to analyse authentic language and develop skills for comprehension of challenging material

with study skills and research:* to develop skills in using the Internet as a source of information about cultural resources
* to develop time management and organization skills
* to develop skills in summarizing, paraphrasing, and synthesizing information from multiple sources
* to practice accurate documentation of sources
* to develop independent learning skills

with thinking:* to develop critical skills in understanding visual media
* to develop critical skills in evaluating online sources
* to recognize and understand divergent views on the same question
* to understand how word choice in English can be used to shape meaning
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| Tentative Course Schedule |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Course introduction | Course description; syllabus; activating background knowledge |
| Metaphors of culture | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Using metaphors to analyze and describe culture |
| 2 | Cherry Blossoms 1 | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Using metaphors to analyze and describe culture |
| Cherry Blossoms 2 | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Using metaphors to analyze and describe culture |
| 3 | Other main metaphors | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Using metaphors to analyze and describe culture |
| Review and quiz | Vocabulary and writing exercise\* |
| 4 | Metaphors of culture | Discussion; vocabulary building; content themes: Using metaphors to analyze and describe culture |
| Introduction to Characters | Discussion; vocabulary building; themes: Japanese characters in historical and contemporary context |
| 5 | Hero Characters | Presentation of discussions; content themes: Japanese Hero Characterizations through language  |
| Hybridity and hybridism | Reading; applying key concepts to other cultural entities |
| 6 | Hybridity and hybridism (this topic will continue throughout the course) | Review of key concepts; language work: phraseology; planning for academic writing |
| Contents Tourism 1: *Pokefuta* | Reading and discussion; mind maps and structural analysis  |
| 7 | “Contents Tourism 2: *Yuru Camp* | Discussion and in-class writing |
| Reading and discussion; text analysis and development of research questions |
| 8 | Midterm Quiz | Assessment of understanding of course contents\* |
| Characters in governmental initiatives | Analysis of visual media from official websites; introduction to ‘friendly authoritarianism’ |
| 9 | “ | Discussion of media from student research |
| “  | Synthesis of data into writing in-class |
| 10 | Describing trends in Japan | Language work: describing changes over time; reading |
| Describing trends in Japan | Language work: describing parts to whole data |
| 11 | Describing trends in Japan | Language work: describing comparison data |
| 12 | Festivals: Tanabata | Reading, analysis, and discussion of themes in contemporary religion |
| Festivals 2 | Expansion of topic with discussion and analysis |
| 13 | Festivals 3 | Mini presentations of student work |
| Intro to final project | Analysis of Pecha Kucha format and project management |
| 14 | Final project | Introduction to final project |
| Final project | Preparation for final project |
| 15 | Final project | Preparation for final project |
| Final project | Presentation of final projects |
|  | Finals# |  |
| Required Materials: |
| In this course, you will need the following materials:* Writing paper and a file
* Pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters
* A bilingual dictionary
* A two-ring binder

There is no set textbook for this course. However, you will receive many handouts, so it is important that you have a binder just for this course. Do NOT mix papers from this class with work from your other classes. We will use Quizlet in class and as homework: bring a working, charged cell phone or computer to each class. Readings are stored on the course Moodle; students will need internet access, and a printer in case we go online.A mask covering the mouth and nose must be worn at all times during face-to-face classes. |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.) |
| **Attendance:**Students must attend class in order to benefit from this course and in order to contribute effectively to group work. Students with more than 5 unexcused absences will be required to withdraw from the course. Arriving late 3 times will count as one absence.**Participation:**Participation means coming to class prepared and on time, taking part in all class activities, listening to others and taking part in discussions. This class will be built around participation individually and as a member of pairs or groups. Missing class (lateness or absence) will result in deductions in the participation grade.**Plagiarism and Intellectual Honesty**Plagiarism is representing some else's words, ideas, or images-as your own. It is a very serious error, and plagiarized work is not accepted in this course. Anyone who submits plagiarized work will receive an F-grade for that assignment.Students should follow the email protocols learned in 1st year ICT and the citation rules of senior thesis as needed. |
| Class Preparation and Review |
| MEXT guidelines state that students are expected to spend **at least** one hour preparing for every hour of class, and one hour reviewing and doing homework.After every lesson, you should review the class handouts and your notes to make sure you understand and prepare whatever homework assignment is requested for the next class (notebook writing, etc). |
| Grades and Grading |
| Participation 25%Homework 25% \*Projects and quizzes 25%#Comprehensive final examination 25% |
| Notes: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed. In principle, graded work will be returned within two weeks of submission with feedback. Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objectives: Diploma Policy Objectives (School of International Liberal Arts)1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking (critical and analytic thought)2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations3. The ability to identify and solve problems 4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English5. Proficiency in the use of information technology |

Overall Course Grading Rubric

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| Grade | F | D | C | B | A |
| Criteria | Failure to meet the course standards | Below average performance | Average performance; met all course standards | Better than average performance; met all course standards | Excellent performance; surpassed course standards |