

Course Title	LAI206 Japanese Popular Culture	Instructor(s)	D. Occhi
		E-mail	docchi@miu.ac.jp
Class Style	Lecture	Office Hours	TBA
Track	Social Sciences	Mode of Instruction	Solo taught
Credits	2	Allocated Year	2026
Active Learning	Category 4 – (1): Interactive Lectures Category 4 – (7): Spoken and written summaries / paraphrases Category 3- (2): Pause for reflection Category 1 – (1): Self-assessment Category 4 – (9): Pair and group work	Compulsory or Elective	Elective
Course Overview	Students will critically consider Japanese popular culture from an academic perspective in English. Various topics in the texts and lectures, including behaviors and consumption practices, historical issues, aesthetics, and communication will provide themes for students to explore in their daily lives and reflect on in discussion and writing.		
Course Objectives	<p>This course will help students... with content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>with English:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to express ideas with confidence, fluency and accuracy in speaking and writing to understand authentic English audio/visual and written materials to broaden understanding of natural expressions in academic discourse to analyze authentic language features and develop skills for comprehension 		
Prerequisite	None. This is a second-year course with a textbook aimed at 400 - 600 TOEIC level		
Course Schedule	No	Contents	Homework
	1	Introduction of syllabus, Moodle, and Textbook order	Review and note any questions
	2	Miyazaki in Japanese culture, Textbook introduction	
	3	Japanese Rituals and Food for the Gods	
	4	Japanese Rituals and Food for the Gods	
	5	Animation in Japan	
	6	Popular Fiction	
	7	Midterm, Japanese Cuisine Goes Global	
	8	The Development of Relationships Between Humans and Animals	
	9	Changing Forms of Celebrity in Japan	
	10	Popular Culture in Food	
	11	Cats and their Powerful Influence on Japanese Culture	
	12	Language and Japanese Media	
	13	Human Rights and Japanese Media	
	14	Cuteness	
15	Final Exam		

Grading	In-class participation 15%, Homework and other writing 30% , Midterm 30% Comprehensive final examination 25%
Textbooks	Japanese Popular Culture in English: Discussions and Critical Thinking 2024, Nan'undo. ¥2530 Other readings will be provided by the instructor.
References	
NOTES	<p>Readings beyond the textbook are stored on the course Moodle; students will need internet access and a PC. A charged cell phone is necessary; students will use Quizlet in class and for study and may use Flipgrid for presentations. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus as needed. Plagiarism and/or use of AI will earn an F grade. An English-English dictionary and Japanese-English, English-Japanese (or English-your home language) dictionary are recommended.</p> <p>STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • If you do not attend a class during add/drop week for unexcused reasons, your place may be given to a waitlisted student. • • You must pay for your textbook and provide your own study supplies. • • You must do your own work. Copying from classmates, use of AI, translation software, etc. will earn an F grade. • • You are expected to inform the instructor in advance if you must miss a class. If you miss a class, you are expected to obtain missing materials and catch up by talking to other students and the instructor as soon as possible. • • Excused absence from class (in case of illness or family emergency) requires a written notice from Student Affairs within 7 days. All other absences from class will be considered “unexcused”. Missed quizzes/tests require excused absence for makeup. • • If you are not in the classroom when the instructor takes attendance, you will be marked as late. 3 late attendances = 1 absence. 30 min late = 1 absence. 4 or more unexcused absences can earn a grade of F (Fail). • • Assignments completion: It is your responsibility to attend all classes, to participate actively as a member of the class, and to complete and hand in all assigned work as required to pass this course. <p>LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • I will make efforts to address the different learning styles of students in the class. There will be a combination of whole-class activities, individually based activities, small group work, and lecture. • • Students and instructors will work together to create a safe learning environment for everyone.

Harassment or bullying will not be tolerated.

- • This course will aim to follow the OECD Learning Compass 2030.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:

- It is our goal that all students have an effective learning environment. Please let me know all necessary accommodations needed to make the class fully accessible as soon as possible so needs can be met.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time.