L05 JAPAN 226C – INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE CIVILIZATION
Simon Hall, Room 17, MWF 1:00-2:00pm

Instructor: Quillon Arkenstone
Office: January Hall 204
Office hours: after class or by appointment

Graduate Assistants: Emily Levine (emilylevine@wustl.edu)
Adam Manfredi (amanfredi@wustl.edu)

Course Description:
This course will examine the development of Japanese civilization from antiquity to the present. The first half of the semester will provide an overview of Japanese developmental and cultural history, focusing on the interplay of religion, society and the arts. Special attention will also be given to social change and the evolving representation of “Japan,” particularly in distinction to “China” and “The West.” Topics to consider will be influences from the Asian continent, the development of poetic sensibility, and the rise of a military culture. The second half of the semester will examine aspects of contemporary Japanese society such as gender, education, and popular culture. Recommended for Japanese majors. PREREQ: NONE.

Required Texts:
Walker, Brett L. A Concise History of Japan.
Victoria Lyon Bestor and Theodore Bestor, eds. Routledge Handbook of Japanese Culture and Society. Other readings will be provided by instructor.

Grading:

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<th>Component</th>
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<tr>
<td>Questions/Lecture Attendance</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Writing Project</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Midterm Examination</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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Students taking the course P/F of CR/NCR must achieve 70% to pass.

Questions/Lecture Attendance. Lectures will amplify and elucidate the required readings. Regular attendance is strongly encouraged. Short questions will be assigned on most (but not every) Friday to accompany the scheduled readings. Answers must be printed out and turned in the following Monday. Late submissions will not be accepted. Email submissions will not be accepted. Answers will be graded on a scale of 1-5.

Final Writing Project. There will be a final writing project, an eight-page annotated bibliography, due on December 7. An annotated bibliography is a list of the sources that you would use—if you were writing a paper—each accompanied by a brief evaluative and informative description. Your bibliography will focus on a single topic related to some aspect of Japanese society and culture (traditional or modern). Students will be given a list of appropriate topics. If you wish to select something not on the list, you must have it approved by me in advance. In general, your project will cover a selection of books, articles, and websites and will include six pages of annotation and a two-page overview of the topic under discussion. Your bibliography will be graded on 1) the approach you take to your topic (the kinds of questions you plan to
explore); 2) the thoroughness of the research; 3) accuracy of citations; 4) the quality of your annotations; and 5) the thoughtfulness of your overview. More information will be provided after the midterm.

*Midterm and Final.* The Midterm will be on October 1. The Final will be on December 19.

*Please note:*
1. All electronic devices (including phones) must be shut off during class.
2. Please be in class on-time—if you will have trouble doing so, let me know in advance.
3. No eating in class—covered drinks are allowed.
4. Familiarize yourself with the academic integrity expectations. It is your responsibility to follow them:

https://wustl.edu/about/compliance-policies/academic-policies/undergraduate-student-academic-integrity-policy/

**Weekly Schedule¹**
(Readings are to be completed by the date listed)

08/27 – Course introduction
08/29 – Jōmon, Yayoi – Japan before “Japan” (Walker 1)

09/03 – **Labor Day – no class**
09/05 – Toward a founding of Nara: Borrowing from the Continent, Buddhism, Jinshin, etc.
09/07 – Nara: Politics (Shōtoku) and Culture (*Kojiki*, *Manyōshū*)

09/10 – Heian: Away from Shōtoku, Familial/Fujiwara politics, Hiei (*Genji monogatari*, Walker 2)
09/12 – Heian aesthetics: (*Ise 9, Makura no sōshi*, *Kokinshū* and the importance of poetry)
09/14 – End of Heian, Rise of Samurai/Genpei War (*Heike monogatari*, Walker 3)

09/17 – “When Buddhism held sway:” Medieval Japan, Zen, etc. (*Hōjōki*, Walker 4)
09/19 – Medieval Buddhist aesthetics: Zeami (Kakitsubata, Atsumori), Kenkō, *Towazugatari*
09/21 – Southern Barbarians, Tanegashima, and the “Christian Century” (Walker 5)

09/24 – The foundations of the Tokugawa order (Walker 6)
09/26 – Peaceful Samurai and rōnin: (Walker 7, *Chūshingura*)
09/28 – Review

10/01 – **Midterm Exam**
10/03 – From Kamigata to Edo: Chônin and the Cultural shift to Edo; Kokugaku
10/05 – Late Tokugawa and Perry (Heine, *With Perry to Japan*)

10/05 – **Special Lecture:** Dr. Susan Napier (details to follow)

10/08 – Boshin and the “opening” of Japan (Walker 9; Smith, “Japan’s Aristocratic Revolution”)
10/10 – Meiji: creating “Japan” (Gluck)
10/12 – Meiji: building an empire (Walker 11; Fukuzawa, “Datsu-a ron”)

10/15 – **Fall Break – no class**

¹ Tentative
Begin thinking about the topic for your annotated bibliography

10/17 – “Greater Taishō:” democracy, war, and economic change (Walker 12)
10/19 – “Ero-guro” nonsense: Culture in the Taishō Period

10/22 – 1930s: Ultra-nationalism and “Patriotism” (Mishima, “Yūkoku”)
10/24 – Daitōa sensō, Taiheiyō senso, and WWII (Walker 13)
10/26 – Atomic Bombs and the American occupation (Walker 14)

10/31 – Society and Culture Since the War: introduction (Routledge 1, 6)
11/02 – Language and identity in Postwar Japan (Routledge 3)

11/05 – Educational Issues and the Economic Miracle (Routledge 4)
11/07 – Religion in postwar Japan (Routledge 5)
11/09 – Modern Family in Japan (Routledge 10)

11/12 – A Classless Society? (Routledge 8)
11/14 – Gendering Japan (Routledge 9)
11/16 – Queering Japan (Routledge 11)

11/19 – Sports in Modern Japan (Routledge 20) Final Writing Project Draft Due
11/21 – Thanksgiving Break – no class
11/23 – Thanksgiving Break – no class

11/26 – Entertaining Japan (Routledge 18, 19, 22)
11/28 – Minorities and margins in Modern Japan (Routledge 12, 13)
11/30 – Köreisha: Aging in Japan (Routledge 14)

12/03 – Politics in Japan (Routledge 2)
12/05 – Japan in the world: Rethinking “Japan” (Walker 15, Routledge 21)
12/07 – Conclusion/Wrap Final Writing Project Due

12/19 – Final Exam (1:00pm – 3:00pm)