

WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Modern Foreign Languages
FIRST - YEAR SEMINAR
JPN 190 Introduction to Japanese Popular Culture
Syllabus
Fall 11

Welcome to Japanese 190, one of WCU's First -Year Seminars. The Topic of this course is Japanese Pop Culture, which has been tremendously affecting youth culture in the U.S. Since this is an introductory survey course, no previous knowledge of Japan or Japanese Pop Culture is needed. What is needed, however, is curiosity, a willingness to read with a KEEN eye for details, and an eagerness to share your opinion with others in class. Our objective is to grasp and make sense of the complicated picture of "Japanese Pop Culture in the U.S." We also want to explore the many sub-genres of Japanese Pop Culture by covering all possible aspects of Japanese Society (The culture of Family, School, Work, Technology, Religion, etc).

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Snow Days/Emergencies	N/A

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Western Carolina University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for students with documented disabilities. Students who require reasonable accommodations must identify themselves as having a disability and provide current diagnostic documentation to Disability Services. All information is confidential. Please contact the Office of Disability Services for more information at (828) 227-3886 or lalexis@wcu.edu You may also visit the office's website: disability.wcu.edu

Course Objectives

- **FIRST YEAR SEMINAR SYNTHESIS: THE PATHWAY TO INTENTIONAL LEARNING.**
- To understand aspects of Japanese culture through various topics.
- To compare the similarities and differences between Japanese culture and Western culture.
- To cultivate students' sensitivity to differing values and viewpoints which exist in other cultures.
- To enhance students' ability to write and talk about culture

Text: *Japanamerica*. R. Kelts. (2007). NY: Palgrave. *Japan Pop!*. T.J. Craig. (2000). NY: M.E. Sharpe.

The Cambridge Companion to Modern Japanese Culture. Edited by Yoshio Sugimoto. (2009). NY: Cambridge University Press.

Materials needed: Textbook, notebooks, handouts, pens, and A BINDER/FOLDER.

Course Format: Lectures, discussion, demonstration, guest speakers, and group or individual presentation

Course Requirements, Grading and Evaluation:

- Regular class attendance & active participation in class (20%)
- Completion of assigned reading materials and homework prior to each class (20%)
- Individual Presentation (20%)
- Final Group presentation (20%)
- Final Individual paper (20%)

Grading scale:

A = 98%+	B+ = 87%+	C+ = 77%+	D+ = 67%+
A = 93%+	B = 83%+	C = 73%+	D = 60%+
A- = 90%+	B- = 80%+	C- = 70%+	F = 59.9%-

Tentative Schedule for Fall 2011

JA: *Japanamerica*. MJC: *Modern Japanese Culture*. IP: Individual Presentation

R & P: Reading & Posting your comments or questions to the Blackboard.

Dates	Notes	Topic	Assignment
8/23		Overview of Japanese Pop Culture	
25			
30		IP: Game shows	
9/1		Ch 1 from JA.	← R & P
6		IP: Sports & Music	
8		Ch 2 from JA.	← R & P
13		IP: Advanced Technology & Samurais	
15	Guest speaker		
20		IP: Vocaloids	
22		Ch 3 from JA.	← R & P
27		IP: Art & Sushi	
29		Ch 4 from JA & Family Culture from MJC	← R & P
10/4		IP: Architecture & Food	
6		Ch 5 from JA & School Culture from MJC	← R & P
11		IP: Video games & Religion	
13-18	No class		
20		Ch 6 from JA & Work Culture from MJC	← R & P
25		IP: Anime & Geisha	
27		Ch 7 from JA & Technological Culture from MJC	← R & P
11/1		IP: Dramas & Sakura trees	
3		Ch 8 from JA & Religious Culture from MJC	← R & P
8		IP: Manga & Pokemon	
10		Ch 9 from JA & Political Culture from MJC	← R & P
15		Buraku Culture & Literary Culture from MJC	← R & P
17		Popular Leisure & Housing Culture from MJC	← R & P
22		IP: Cosplay & Festivals	
23-27	No class		
29		IP: Cafes & Clothing	
1		Food Culture & Sports Culture from MJC	← R & P
6		Globalization and cultural nationalism	← R & P
8		Final Group Presentation	
15	3:00-5:30	Final Group Presentation	Final Paper Due

Attendance policy: You are required to attend the class throughout the semester. **Don't miss the class.** Please notify the instructor about your absence prior to the class, which means you need to email me before class. The first three misses will not affect your grade, but more than four absences will interfere with your grade.

Participation policy: I expect you to get prepared by doing all the assignments. Please try to participate in all discussions. Silence is not golden in the class. If you have difficulties in speaking up for some reason, please talk to me early on (not toward the middle or end) in the semester.

Homework policy: There will be homework, which will be assigned as needed during the class. **Don't miss your homework.** If you miss the class, it is your responsibility to find out missing assignments. Late homework will be accepted, but you will only receive half credit. For each class discussion, provide **two typed comments** on the assigned readings. Ask your questions or share your comments in class. Submit this assignment through discussion board on Blackboard.

Individual Presentation: Conduct a research on the topic, in which you are interested. Define a few significant aspects of Japanese culture through the topic and find equivalents in other cultures. The presentation will be based on information found through research and should discuss the significance of Japanese culture and its equivalents in other cultures. Present your findings to the class with a PowerPoint presentation **AT LEAST ONCE. If demonstration along with your presentation is needed, please do so accordingly. Your second individual presentation would be considered as extra credit.**

Final Presentation Topic: What is Japanese popular culture?

Final Paper Topic:

What is Japanese popular culture? Explain your thoughts with examples from your readings, any resources you find. NOTE: For your final paper, you may select your own topic to research but you must discuss it with me first.

Late Final Paper: Late final paper receives only **half credit.** Final paper and other assignments must be typed and double-spaced. No handwritten papers or assignments are accepted. **PLEASE DO NOT INCLUDE WIKIPEDIA AS YOUR SOURCE.**

Letter of Recommendation policy: You should ask the instructor for a letter of recommendation three to four weeks before the deadline, if possible. Two weeks before the deadline should be considered the minimum advance notice.

Weather related-schedule change: WCU cancels school only if it is a state of emergency (blizzard, flood, locust, frogs, gnats, etc.). Please check YOUR CATAMOUNT EMAIL whether the class will be cancelled or not. **PLEASE DO NOT CALL EITHER YOUR INSTRUCTOR OR MFL DEPARTMENT OFFICE PERTAINING TO THE CLASS CANCELLATION.**

I hope you will have fun in this class.