**Syllabus: Introduction to Japanese Culture (working draft)**

Instructor: Hiroko Chiba

Time: Tuesday, Thursday 12:40-2:10

Office Hours

Couse description

This is an introductory course that looks at the way modern Japanese society and culture formed through language, history, aesthetics, and political/social elements. Students will examine how the building blocks of Japanese society manifest themselves in contemporary Japan.

* Language
* Historical sources
* Traditional Literature
* Visual Culture/Aesthetics
* Manufacturing/robotics--monozukuri
* Pacifism
* Social issues

UNIT 1

Language, history, literature

UNIT 2

Visual culture and aesthetics

UNIT 3

Conflicts/Tension in Japan and with Japan

UNIT 4

Pop Culture and Japan

**Schedule**

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| Week 1 | 1 | **Course Introduction and Geography** |
| 2 | **Japanese Language and Communication**  Readings |
| Week 2 | 1 | **Brief History of Japan Part 1—Jomon to 1600AD**  Readings |
| 2 | **Brief History of Japan Part 2**  Readings |
| Week 3 | 1 | **Traditional Japanese Literature Part 1 Monono aware**  Readings—excerpts from Manyoshu, The Tale of Genji, |
| 2 | **Traditional Japanese Literature Part 2 Zuihitsu genre**  Readings—excerpts from Pillow Book, Tusrezuregusa  Due: Essay 1 |
| Week 4 | 1 | **Review** |
| 2 | **Test 1** |
| Week 5 | 1 | **Visual Culture Part 1: “Floating World” Visual Arts in Edo period** |
| 2 | **Visual Culture Part 2: Performing Arts—Noh, Kabuki, Bunraku, Kamishibai** |
| Week 6 | 1 | **Visual Culture Part 3: Anime and Manga** |
| 2 | **Folklore and Urban Legends-Yokai stories** |
| Week 7 | 1 | **“High Brow” Aesthetics—tea ceremony, flower arranging, Martial arts** |
| 2 | **“High Brow” Aesthetics—calligraphy** |
| Week 8 | 1 | ***Monozukuri* spirit: Manufacturing in Japan** |
| 2 | ***Monozukuri* spirit: Robotics** |
| Week9 | 1 | Test 2 |
| 2 | Preparation for final projects |
| Week 10 | 1 | **Post-war Pacifism** |
| 2 | **Post-war Pacifism** |
| Week 11 | 1 | **Post-war Conflicts** |
| 2 | **Minorities in Japan** |
| Week 12 | 1 | **Fandom-Anime, Manga, Cosplay, Comike, Maid Cafe** |
| 2 | **Fandom-Kawaii Culture** |
| Week 13 | 1 | **Contemporary Japan as a Global Culture (?)**  “Cool Japan” |
| 2 | **Presentations** |
| Week 14 | 1 | **Presentations** |
| 2 | **Presentations** |