

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF JAPAN
Graduate School of International Relations

Academic Year: 2016/2017

Term: Spring

Course	Course code REC5600	Course title Peace, War and the Development of Modern Japan	
Name of Instructor	Motohide Saji		Credit Number: 2
Instructor's contact Information	Office# 309	Office Hours Wednesdays 11:00-12:00	E-mail: msaji@iuj.ac.jp
Class Schedule Day / Time	Thursday / 10:30-12:00, 13:00-14:30		

Course Description: This course introduces students to some of the social and cultural issues in contemporary Japan.

Learning Objectives: Among issues to be discussed are: yakuza, or an organized crime in Japan; social problems such as homelessness, extremely high rate of suicide, so-called social “withdrawals”; minorities in Japan; discrimination against them; and consumer subculture and its implications. These issues are not covered in typical courses on Japan. In this course students will learn different aspects of contemporary Japan and thereby deepen their knowledge about Japan.

Career Relevance: particularly relevant to the career in addressing social problems, in intercultural communication related fields, and in Japan-related organizations.

Course Context or Rationalization: dealing with issues not covered in other courses on Japan, this course helps especially non-Japanese students deepen their knowledge about and enrich their experience in contemporary Japan.

Delivery Methods: short lecture, students' presentation, and a lot of time on class discussion.

Assessment: absence is disadvantageous; active class participation (10% worth); in-class presentation (20% worth); and an about 3,000-word term paper (70% worth).

Prerequisite:

Textbook(s)	<p>Required:</p> <p>Reference books/Journal Articles:</p> <p>Azuma, Hiroki. <i>Otaku: Japanese Database Animals</i> (University of Minnesota Press, 2009)</p> <p>Dower, John W. <i>Japan in War & Peace</i> (New Press, 1993)</p> <p>Dower, John W. <i>Embracing Defeat</i> (Norton, 2000).</p> <p>Furlong, Andy. “The Japanese <i>hikikomori</i> phenomenon: acute social withdrawal among young people.” <i>Sociological Review</i>, 56, no. 2 (2008): 309-325.</p> <p>Gordon, Andrew. <i>Labor and Imperial Democracy in Prewar Japan</i> (University of California Press, 1992)</p> <p>Gordon, Andrew. <i>A History of Modern Japan: from Tokugawa Times to the Present</i> (Oxford University Press, 2003)</p>
-------------	---

	<p>Gordon, Andrew. (ed.) <i>Postwar Japan as History</i> (University of California Press, 1993). Harari, Noah Yuval. <i>Homo Deus: a Brief History of Tomorrow</i> (Harvill Secker, 2016). Kim, Bumsoo. "Bringing class back in: the changing basis of inequality and the Korean minority in Japan." <i>Ethnic & Racial Studies</i>, 31, 5 (2008): 871-898. Morris-Suzuki, Tessa. <i>Re-Inventing Japan</i> (M. E. Sharpe, 1998). Najita, Tetsuo and J. Victor Koschmann. (eds.) <i>Conflict in Modern Japanese History</i> (Princeton University Press, 1982). Silberman, Bernard. (ed.) <i>Cages of Reason</i> (The University of Chicago Press, 1993). Yamanouchi, Yasushi et al. (eds.) <i>Total War and "Modernization"</i> (Cornell East Asia Series, 1998) Yoda, Tomiko and Harry Harootunian. (eds.) <i>Japan after Japan</i> (Duke University Press, 2006) Zielenziger, Michael. <i>Shutting out the Sun</i> (Vintage Books, 2007)</p>
Class Outline	<p>1. and 2 (Week 1). An overview of the course, explaining the mechanics of the course and deciding presentation slots 3. and 4 (week 2). Modern Japan backlit 1 (a different perspective on Japan 1, including the story of organized crime playing a huge role in modern Japan) 5. and 6 (Week 3). Modern japan backlit 2 (a different perspective on Japan 2, continuing the story of organized crime playing a huge role in modern Japan) 7. and 8 (Week 4). Social problems 1 (including the phenomenon of so-called "social withdrawals" or "hikikomori" and its implications) 9. and 10 (Week 5). No class (National Holiday) 11. and 12 (Week 6). Social problems 2 (including suicide issues in contemporary Japan) 13. and 14 (Week 7). Postmodernity and its implications 1 (including discussion on consumer culture and how our behavior is/can be controlled in various ways); 15. and 16 (Week 8). Postmodernity and its implications 2 17. and 18. (Week 9) Minorities 1 (Japanese Koreans, Ainu, Okinawa people, so-called "discriminated people" or "buraku" people in Japan) 19. and 20. (Week 10) Minorities 2 (foreign workers in Japan and Japanese NGOs/civil society organizations helping them)</p> <p>We may have a student presentation in each week.</p>
Others (if any)	