

SOC 357 Sociology of Japan**Focus Designation: WI****(3 Credits)****University of Hawaii at Manoa****Summer Online Extension****Instructor: Michael Dziesinski, Ph.D.**

Office Location: Saunders Hall, Room 241**Office Hours:** Via email anytime, by appointment in my office, or Skype**Email:** dziesins@hawaii.edu**Course Website:** <https://laulima.hawaii.edu/portal/>**Class Meeting Times:** Course is conducted online, Mon – Fri

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

SOC 357 Sociology of Japan (3) (from the course catalogue): Persistence and change in economy, policy, religion, education, family, and other institutions of modern Japan. This is an online class offered via Laulima. After registering for the course, students may access the class at <https://laulima.hawaii.edu>. Students are required to use their UH account (username@hawaii.edu) for the duration of the course. For additional information about online classes, see www.hawaii.edu/dl.

Detailed Course Description

How do we understand peoples in other societies with different cultures from our own? To better understand Japanese society, culture, and its people, this course will use the lens of sociological inquiry and theory in order to examine how cultural constructions and social relations structure everyday life in contemporary Japan. The course examines the structural foundations of post-war Japanese society as well as the contemporary challenges facing Japanese culture today. Through academic readings and online media students should acquire an analytical sociological perspective on contemporary Japanese culture and society by the end of the course.

Requirements: Student Responsibilities for Online Courses

With an online course every student has full access to the class source material via an Internet connection any time of day, anywhere in the world, at his or her convenience, without the hassle of commuting to campus or finding a parking spot. But as with face-to-face classes, online courses also come with certain responsibilities.

One is that you should have reliable access to an Internet connection with decent bandwidth, as you will need to watch online video. Further, you will need to be able to log in several times a week in order to satisfy participation requirements for the class. Missed deadlines will not be excused by “my internet was down”- you should make arrangements for internet access alternatives before critical deadlines. Another requirement is you should have a working knowledge for basic internet usage and computer software. *See below for a list of required computer software for this class, all of which are free to download.*

Second, with an online course it is important to thoroughly read the syllabus and weekly assignments *carefully* so that you know exactly what you need to do over the term. As an online course, the syllabus

provides a road map for the course from start to finish. You are encouraged to read ahead, as most all of the assigned material is right there in the syllabus on day one.

Third, an online course has the same class participation responsibilities as in a regular classroom. Online class participation is in the written form of weekly assignments and weekly discussions with your online classmates about the popular culture readings and topics.

II. FOCUS DESIGNATION

Writing Intensive (WI) Focus Designation

This course has the focus designation Writing Intensive (WI). The student will be expected to write a minimum of 4,000 words during the period of the semester. The 4,000 word WI requirement for this course will be satisfied via a weekly reaction paper assignments and a class research project. Failure to satisfy the minimum stated word count for class writing assignments will have an adverse on the student's final grade. *Instructor feedback and suggestions for improvement on future submissions will be provided on each weekly writing assignment submitted by students.*

III. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/MEDIA

Weekly reading assignments listed in the course outline will be posted on the Laulima site for this course, from the two course textbooks, as PDFs, or clickable web links in the Assignments Section. *You should complete reading/watching all assigned materials before posting in the weekly discussions.*

Textbooks

The textbooks for this course will be supplemented with occasional readings in the form of PDFs and links to web sources. You can save considerably on the cost of the textbooks by buying or renting or digital copies through Amazon.com's Kindle format.



Understanding Japanese Society
Fourth Edition



Joy Hendry
NISSAN INSTITUTE/ROUTLEDGE JAPANESE STUDIES SERIES



Format: Paperback textbook, Kindle digital text

Author: Joy Hendry

Title and edition: *Understanding Japanese Society. 4th Edition.*

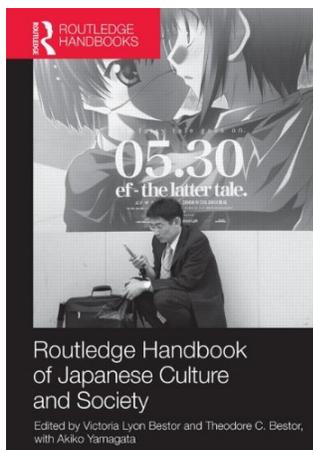
ISBN: 0415679141

Publisher: Routledge 2012

Required or optional text (R or O): *Required*

Kindle Edition, ASIN: B009P366PQ

Also available as Amazon Digital Services Rental at a discount



Format: Paperback textbook, Kindle digital text
 Editors: Victoria Bestor, Theodore C. Bestor, Akiko Yamagata
 Title and edition: *Routledge Handbook of Japanese Culture and Society*.
Reprint edition.
 ISBN: 0415709148
 Publisher: Association for Asian Studies (order inquiries www.asian-studies.org)
 Required or optional text (R or O): *Required*

Kindle Edition, ASIN: B004XYN3E4
 Also available as Amazon Digital Services Rental at a discount

Required Computer Software

- A multi-platform web browser that is up-to-date. Check for software updates within the browser if you are not sure.
 - Firefox www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/new/
 - Chrome www.google.com/chrome
 - Safari www.apple.com/safari/
- For multi-media materials, this course will link to web sites outside Laulima and will require video or streaming plug-ins for your browser. While some sites might have custom video players, these are the most common on the web.
 - Adobe Flash Player www.adobe.com/support/flashplayer/downloads.html
 - Quicktime Player www.apple.com/quicktime/download/
- Software or browser add-ons in order to read the PDF document format.

Optional Computer Software

If you choose to buy or rent a digital version of the textbooks you will need the *Kindle* eReader app for your computer or mobile platform. The Kindle app is free and available to download at the following link: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?docId=1000493771>. If the link does not work, simply go to the Kindle Store on Amazon.com.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Work Flow

| <u>Deadlines</u> | <u>Task</u> |
|---|---|
| Phase One Midnight, Tuesday ↓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read ALL assigned reading materials. • Respond in the forums to at least two topics introduced by instructor. |
| Phase Two Midnight, Thursday ↓ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read everyone's forum responses in Phase One and respond to at least two of that <i>you did not initially answer</i> in the forums. |
| Phase Three Midnight, Saturday | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to comments on your postings in Phase Two. • Submit the weekly one-page reaction paper. |

There are four components to your grade in this course.

1) One-Page Reaction Papers (35% of final grade).

Reaction Paper Guidelines

Weekly deadline: Saturday, Midnight (*Hawaii time*).

Late papers: Automatically lose one letter grade per day late.

File names: “Your family name-date-Course #-paper #” (e.g. Dziesinski-02.03.14-SOC352-RP1).

File types: Microsoft .doc, .doc x, or .PDF

Document formatting: Single-spaced. Use the Font Times New Roman, 12 point.

Layout: Your name, date, reaction paper #, and title should be included on the top of each page.

Word count: each reaction paper must be *at least 300 words* (not including your name, date and title).

Citation: For quotes or sources in your paper, use the ASA citation format. URL: goo.gl/FTzX0Q

Submission: Submit your paper as a file attachment in the “Assignments” section of Lulima.

Total number: 8

- a. The instructor will post an essay question covering the readings (topics) for that week in the “Reaction Papers” section in Lulima. Response papers serve to help you think through the readings, serve as the foundation of material to prepare for the final project, and become the basis for the weekly forum dialogue with your classmates.
- b. **The reaction paper is equivalent to a weekly quiz on the assigned unit materials, both text and video.** The reaction paper should indicate that the student has read/watched the weekly materials and provide an analysis that contributes to the weekly class discussion on the topic. However, it should not just be a summary of the assigned readings for the week, I expect you critically engage with the material, incorporating your own insights and reflections on the issue. *But remember, the reaction paper is not an opinion essay either, it is a test of your knowledge, comprehension, and critical thinking skills as applied to the assigned materials.*
- c. Reaction papers are graded based on clarity of expression, structure and format, thoughtfulness, and demonstration of critical thinking. Each paper will be evaluated by the instructor using a scale from 0 to 44.

2) Weekly Discussion Forums (35% of final grade).

You are expected to post at three to five times throughout the week:

[Phase One]

Deadline: Midnight, Tuesday (11:59:59 PM, Hawaii time).

- The instructor will post several discussion topics centered on the week’s readings each Friday for the following week’s topic.
- Read ALL the assigned reading materials, and **answer two of the topics** in the “Weekly Forum” section in Lulima under the marked weekly thread by midnight, Tuesday. *Each answer should be at least one paragraph in length.*

[Phase Two]

Deadline: Midnight, Thursday (11:59:59 PM, Hawaii time).

- Read everyone's answers in the weekly forum thread. **Respond to two or more posts** that addressed topics you did not initially answer in Phase 1 by midnight, Thursday. *Each answer should be at least one paragraph in length.*

[Phase Three]

Deadline: Midnight, Saturday (11:59:59 PM, Hawaii time).

- In Phase 3, **respond to any comments on your own posts in Phase 2** by midnight, Saturday. *Each answer should be at least one paragraph in length.*
- In order to get full credit for the week's participation, you must clearly state at the end of this Saturday post 1) which topics you answered in Phase 1 and 2) the student's names and topics you responded to in Phase 2. Example: *I chose topic A and topic B in Phase 1, and responded to Student#1 (topic C) and student #2 (topic D) in Phase 2.*

Forum Guidelines

- a. Students are required to contribute to a discussion on the weekly assigned reading topic by contributing to a collaborative forum thread found on Lualima in the "Weekly Forums" section. The discussion forum presents the opportunity for online classmates to directly interact and collectively discuss/analyze the weekly topic as they build a shared understanding on the sociology of Japan. Weekly posts will be read and monitored by the instructor and should become a shared conversation between the instructor and all students throughout the week on the particular topic. Your post must demonstrate intellectual engagement with the topic, show evidence of thoughtfulness, be constructive, not be disrespectful, *and be on time.*
 - b. *If your four posts are time-stamped when the topic was assigned, you receive full class participation credit. However, if you did not post during the week of the assignment, trying to post on past-due topics later in the semester will grant no discussion points for that week. Be on time.*
- 3) **Mid Term Essay (15% of final grade)**
Information on the midterm essay will be provided during the semester. This assignment is a long form essay of approximately 1,000 words. The midterm question will be announced in the middle of Week 5, and students will submit their midterm paper by Midnight Sunday, March 23rd.
 - 4) **Final Essay (15% of final grade)**
Information on the midterm essay will be provided during the semester. This assignment is a long form essay of approximately 1,000 words. The midterm question will be announced in the middle of Week 10, and students will submit their midterm paper by Midnight August 8th.

V. GRADING CRITERIA

The final grade for the course will be based on the total number of points earned in the four components of the course. The weight assigned for each component is as follows:

| Component | Number | x Point Value | = Total points | % of Course Grade |
|-----------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Reaction Paper | 8 | 44 | 350 | 35 |
| Weekly Discussions | 10 | 35 | 350 | 35 |
| Mid Term Essay | 1 | 150 | 150 | 15 |
| Final Essay | 1 | 150 | 150 | 15 |
| Total Possible | | | 1000 | 100 |

Final Grades

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|--------|----|--------|----|
| 97-100% | A+ | 82-84% | B | 69-71% | C- |
| 93-96 | A | 79-81 | B- | 65-68 | D+ |
| 89-92 | A- | 75-78 | C+ | 62-64 | D |
| 85-88 | B+ | 72-74 | C | 59-61 | D- |
| | | | | 0-58 | F |

Deadlines, Late Assignments, and Missed Assignments

The due date for all class assignments are indicated in the course syllabus at the beginning of the semester with details for each assignment provided the week before the due date. Assignments include reaction papers, weekly forum posts, the project proposal, and the final project. A finished copy of each assignment is to be uploaded by the student to Laulima as a forum post, *PDF*, or Microsoft Word *.doc* document as appropriate by the posted due date. Assignments turned in after the due date will be assessed a grade penalty. Late assignments are penalized one letter grade per day after the posted due date until delivered to the instructor. If a student has a valid reason for which they are unable to deliver work during the assigned period, they should be prepared to provide documentation to the instructor. Otherwise, students will receive a zero on their course grade for any assignments not turned in.

KOKUA – Students with Disabilities or Special Needs

For students with disabilities who may feel the need for assistance during the semester, please feel free to contact me in private. Further, we can work with the KOKUA Program to offer additional assistance. If you are not familiar with the KOKUA program, here is their contact information:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>

Academic Integrity - Cheating & Plagiarism

Students in this course are expected to comply with the University of Hawaii's Policy on Academic Integrity. *"The integrity of a university depends upon academic honesty, which consists of independent learning and research. Academic dishonesty includes cheating and plagiarism. The following are examples of violations of the Student Conduct Code that may result in suspension or expulsion from UH Manoa."*

The original source, and further detail on these policies, can be found here:

<http://www.catalog.hawaii.edu/about-uh/campus-policies1.htm>

It is the responsibility of each student to know the University of Hawaii code of conduct, and in relevance to this class, the rules regarding, and the consequences of, cheating and plagiarism. Ignorance of these rules will not excuse any misconduct. To quote from page 6 of the University of Hawaii Student Code of Conduct:

“Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any document that has been copied in whole or in part from another individual's work without attributing that borrowed portion to the individual; neglecting to identify as a quotation another's idea and particular phrasing that was not assimilated into the student's language and style or paraphrasing a passage so that the reader is misled as to the source; submitting the same written or oral material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or dry labbing, which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of the course or from previous terms or fabricating data to fit the desired or expected results.”

The original source, in full, is here:

www2.honolulu.hawaii.edu/sites/www2.../policies-student-conduct.pdf

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----|
| <u>Week One</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Introduction.</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry: “Introduction” (1-4) Hendry, Chapter 1: “Sources of Japanese Identity: historical and mythological foundation of Japan” (5-22) Bestor, 1: (Duus) Showa era Japan and beyond: from Imperial Japan to Japan Inc. (13-28) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #1 | due |
| <u>Week Two</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Family</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 2: “The House and Family System” (23-40) Bestor, 10: (White) “Change and diversity in the Japanese family” (129-139) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #2 | due |
| <u>Week Three</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Social Class and Identity</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 3: “Socialization and Classification” (41-56) Bestor, 8: (Slater) “Social class and social identity in postwar Japan” (103-115) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #3 | due |
| <u>Week Four</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Status and Multiculturalism</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 6: “Status, Hierarchy and Ethnic Diversity” (91-114) Bestor, 12: (Siddle) “Race, ethnicity, and minorities in modern Japan” (150-162) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #4 | due |
| <u>Week Five</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Religion and Ritual</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapters 7: Religious Influences (115-133) Hendry, Chapter 8: Ritual and the Life Cycle (134-151) Bestor, 5: (Mullins) Religion in contemporary Japanese lives (63-74) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | <i>Submit Mid-Term Essay</i> | due |

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|-----|
| <u>Week Six</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Community and Social Welfare</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 4: “Community and Neighborhood” (57-73) Bestor, 14: (Thang) Aging and social welfare in Japan (172-185) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #5 | due |
| <u>Week Seven</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Education</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 5: “The Education System” (74-90) Bestor, 4: (Goodman) Japanese Education and Education Reform (52-62) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #6 | due |
| <u>Week Eight</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Work</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 9: “Opportunities for Working Life” (152-168) Bestor, 13: (Stevens) “Life on the margins in Japan: homeless, migrant day laborers, and people with disabilities” (163-171) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #7 | due |
| <u>Week Nine</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Politics and Social Control</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 11: “Government and the Craft of Politics” (188-206) Hendry, Chapter 12: “The Legal System and Social Control” (207-222) Bestor, 6: (Repeta) “Law and Society in Japan” (75-88) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Reaction Paper #8 | due |
| <u>Week Ten</u> | | |
| Topic: | <i>Leisure and Consumption</i> | |
| Reading List: | Hendry, Chapter 10: “Arts, Entertainment and Leisure” (169-187) Bestor, 18: (Napier) Manga and Anime: entertainment, big business, and art in Japan (226-237) | |
| Assignments: | First Forum post | due |
| | Submit Final Essay | due |

****Please note that details and assigned readings for this syllabus may be revised. The final revision of the course syllabus will be provided on the first day of class.***