

SOCIOLOGY 357: SOCIOLOGY OF JAPAN

Fall 2016, T & TH, 10:30 – 11:45 AM, Gartley 102, CRN 79584
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Overview: This course is an introduction to the people, institutions, problems, and practices of contemporary Japan. It has two units. Unit I explores four perspectives for understanding Japanese society. Unit II examines selected social problems in Japan. To enroll in this course students must have completed SOC 100 or a 200-level SOC course with a “C” grade or better.

Requirements: Attendance is required, as is informed participation in class activities. Students are expected to come to class on time, do the assigned readings, and discuss the readings orally and in writing. Here are some standard operating procedures: (1) The professor will call on students in class; (2) if you come to class late you will be considered absent for that day; (3) there will be occasional quizzes about the readings and some in-class and take-home writing assignments; (4) each student will be asked to do an oral presentation in class; (5) in addition to the written texts, students will be required to analyze several videos.

Readings: There are two required books, listed below. Other readings will be made available on Laulima or the Web.

1. Ian Buruma, *Inventing Japan, 1853-1964* (Modern Library, 2003), pp.1-177.
2. Keiko Hirata & Mark Warschauer, *Japan: The Paradox of Harmony* (Yale, 2014), pp.1-251.

To keep informed about current events in Japan, you also should read at least one newspaper with significant coverage of the country. Many people like *Los Angeles Times* or *New York Times*, and English-language resources in Japan include *The Japan Times* (www.japantimes.co.jp), the *Asahi Shimbun* (a somewhat progressive paper, similar to the *New York Times*, available at www.asahi.com/ajw), and Japan’s most popular newspaper, the right-leaning *Yomiuri Shimbun*, which publishes the *Daily Yomiuri* <http://the-japan-news.com>. You can also set up a Google News page that flags articles on Japanese society. However you do it, you are expected to keep current on Japanese news. If a major story breaks, I reserve the right to add current events questions to quizzes or exams.

For a collection of academic articles about Japan and the Asia-Pacific region, including many articles about current events and social problems, see www.japanfocus.org.

Grades: Grades are based on how many points you earn: 90-100 points is an A, 80-89 a B, 70-79 a C, 60-69 a D, and 59 or fewer an F. There will be two exams, each worth 45 points. Exam formats will be explained in class. Attendance, participation, quizzes, presentations, and other assignments will be worth another 10 points. In total there will be $45 + 45 + 10 = 100$ points possible.

Student Learning Objectives: Students will: (1) increase their understanding of Japanese society, and (2) increase their understanding of what is distinctive, ordinary, problematic, and praiseworthy about American society.

Plagiarism: Our definition of plagiarism comes from the UH Manoa Student Conduct Code: “Plagiarism includes but is not limited to submitting, in fulfillment of an academic requirement, any work 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 or artistic material in more than one course without obtaining authorization from the instructors involved; or ‘drylabbing,’ which includes obtaining and using experimental data and laboratory write-ups from other sections of a course or from previous terms.” It is each student’s responsibility to learn about plagiarism and how to avoid it. Ignorance of the rules or saying “I forgot” or “I made a mistake” are not valid excuses. Plagiarism will result in an F for the course.

Students with Disabilities: Anyone who feels that he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability is invited to contact me privately. I am willing to work with you and with the KOKUA Program (Office for Students with Disabilities) in order to ensure *reasonable accommodations* to your situation. KOKUA’s telephone is (808) 956-7511 and (808) 956-7612. The KOKUA office is Room 013 of the Lili’uokalani Center for Student Services.

COURSE SCHEDULE for SOCIOLOGY 357 for FALL 2016

UNIT I: PERSPECTIVES ON JAPANESE SOCIETY

Week 1 – Introduction, Chronology, & Geography

1. Video: “Japan Under American Occupation” (2002, 50 mins, Sinclair DVD 8426)
2. Chronology, at <http://www.japan-guide.com/e/e2126.html>
3. Geography, at <http://www.japan-guide.com/list/e1000.html>

A. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

Week 2 – The Creation of Tradition

4. Ian Buruma, *Inventing Japan*: Prologue, “The Tokyo Olympics” + Chapter 1, “The Black Ships” + ch. 2, “Civilization and Enlightenment” + ch. 3, “*Ero Guro Nansensu*” + ch. 4, “Ah, Our Manchuria” (pp.3-108)
5. Robert J. Smith (1983), *Japanese Society* (Cambridge), ch. 1, “The Creation of Tradition”, pp.9-36

Week 3 – War and Occupation

6. Ian Buruma, *Inventing Japan*, ch. 5, “War Against the West” + ch. 6, “Tokyo Boogie-Woogie” + ch. 7, “1955 and All That”, + Epilogue, “The End of the Postwar” (pp.109-177)
7. John W. Dower, “The Useful War” in *Daedalus*, Summer 1990, pp.49-70

B. CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Week 4 – Culture

8. Ruth Benedict (1946), *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*, ch.8, “Clearing One’s Name” + ch.10, “The Dilemma of Virtue” (pp.145-176 & pp.195-227)
9. Sonya Ryang (JPRI Occasional Paper 32, 2004), “Chrysanthemum’s Strange Life: Ruth Benedict in Japan”, at <http://www.jpri.org/publications/occasionalpapers/op32.html>
10. Robert Whiting, “Baseball Samurai Style” (*Off Duty Pacific*, 4/15/78), at <http://japanesebaseball.com/writers/display.gsp?id=43529>

C. STRUCTURAL PERSPECTIVES

Week 5 – Structure [ALSA conference in Singapore]

11. “Social Structure Defined: An Overview of the Concept”, at http://sociology.about.com/od/S_Index/g/Social-Structure.htm
12. Steven R. Reed (1993), *Making Common Sense of Japan*, ch.1, “A Unique Nation?” + ch.2, “Culture As Common Sense” + ch.3, “A Structural Learning Approach” (pp.3-76).
Note: parts of these chapters are available at https://books.google.com/books/about/Making_Common_Sense_of_Japan.html?id=lStgH9HqEWcC

D. COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Week 6 – Learning from Abroad?

13. Video: “Where To Invade Next?” (Michael Moore, 2015, 120 minutes), available at iTunes
14. Jessica Cane, “7 Things Americans Can Learn From the Japanese” (*The Huffington Post*, December 22, 2015), at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/7-things-we-can-all-learn-from-the-japanese_us_566a4fc0e4b080eddf57c9a6

***Week 7 – Review + Exam 1 (45 points)**, details to be announced in class.

UNIT II: SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN CONTEMPORARY JAPAN

Week 8 – Constitution

15. Video: “Japan’s Peace Constitution” (2005, 70 min, Sinclair DVD 6042)
16. Lawrence Repeta, “Japan’s Democracy at Risk: The LDP’s Ten Most Dangerous Proposals for Constitutional Change” (*Japan Focus*, July 15, 2013), at <http://apjif.org/2013/11/28/Lawrence-Repeta/3969/article.html>

Week 9 – Economy

17. Keiko Hirata and Mark Warschauer (2014), “Introduction” + ch.1, “The Whistleblower” (pp.1-58 in *Japan: The Paradox of Harmony*)
18. David McNeill, “Cover-Up: Toyota and Quality Control” (*Japan Focus*, September 9, 2013, at <http://apjif.org/2013/11/36/David-McNeill/3993/article.html>)
19. Malcolm Gladwell, Revisionist History Podcast, Episode 8 (August 2016), “Blame Game” (41 minutes), at <http://revisionisthistory.com>
20. Malcolm Gladwell, “The Engineer’s Lament: Two Ways of Thinking about Automotive Safety” (*The New Yorker*, 5/14/2015), at <http://gladwell.com/the-engineers-lament>

Week 10 – Gender

21. Hirata & Warschauer, ch.2, “Grass-Eating Girly Men” (pp.59-87)
22. Luke Nottage review of Mark West, *Lovesick Japan: Sex, Marriage, Romance, Law* (Cornell University Press, 2011), *Journal of Japanese Law* (2012), pp.253-258, at https://sydney.edu.au/law/anjel/documents/2012/ZJapanR33_21_Nottage_Rev_West_End4_aP.pdf

Week 11 – Demography

23. Hirata & Warschauer, ch.3, “Graying and Shrinking” (pp.88-125)
24. Nicholas Eberstadt, “Japan Shrinks” (*The Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2012, pp.1-8), at http://archive.wilsonquarterly.com/sites/default/files/articles/Feat_Eberstadt.FNL.pdf

Week 12 – International Relations

25. Hirata & Warschauer, ch.4, “Getting Along with the Neighbors” (pp.126-163)
26. Pew Research Center, “How Asians View Each Other” (July 14, 2014), at <http://www.pewglobal.org/2014/07/14/chapter-4-how-asians-view-each-other/>

Week 13 – Japan’s 3/11: Earthquake, Tsunami, and Nuclear Disaster

27. Hirata & Warschauer, ch.5, “Meltdown” (pp.164-201)
28. Video: “Inside Japan’s Nuclear Meltdown” (2012, PBS Frontline, 55 mins), at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/japans-nuclear-meltdown>

Week 14 – Education

29. Hirata & Warschauer, ch.6, “What We Learned at Lunch” (pp.202-239) + Conclusion, “Shaking Up Japan” (pp.240-251)
30. Video, “Children Full of Life” (2004, 40 mins), on Mr. Toshiro Kanamori, a 4th grade elementary school teacher in Kanazawa prefecture, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1tLB1IU-H0M>

Week 15 – Crime, Criminal Justice, and Capital Punishment

31. David T. Johnson, “Killing Asahara: What Japan Can Learn about Victims and Capital Punishment from the Execution of an American Terrorist” (*Japan Focus*, 2012, pp.1-14), at http://www.japanfocus.org/-David_T_Johnson/3832
32. David T. Johnson, “Japan’s Secretive Death Penalty Policy: Contours, Origins, Justifications, and Meanings” (*Asia-Pacific Law & Policy Journal*, Summer 2006, pp.1-63), at http://blog.hawaii.edu/aplpj/files/2011/11/APLPJ_07.2_johnson.pdf
33. David T. Johnson, “War in a Season of Slow Revolution: Defense Lawyers and Lay Judges in Japanese Criminal Justice”, (*Japan Focus*, 2011, pp.1-11), at http://www.japanfocus.org/-David_T_Johnson/3554
34. Video: “Sore de mo Boku wa Yatte Inai” (Director Suo Masayuki, 2007, 143 mins), at http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x9o6wh_soredemo-boku-wa-yattenai_shortfilms
35. OPTIONAL BOOK: Richard Lloyd Parry, *People Who Eat Darkness: The True Story of a Young Woman Who Vanished from the Streets of Tokyo – and the Evil That Swallowed Her Up* (Farrar, Straus, & Giroux, 2011)

Week 16 – Review + Exam 2 (45 Points), details to be announced in class.

Extra Topics

Extra Topic A – Organized Crime in Japan

36. Video, “*Minbo no Onna*” [Anti-Extortion Woman or The Gentle Art of Japanese Extortion], directed by Juzo Itami (1994, 123 min, Sinclair video 20155)
37. Andrew Rankin, “21st Century Yakuza: Recent Trends in Organized Crime in Japan” (*Japan Focus*, 2/13/2012), at <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Andrew-Rankin/3688> + “Recent Trends in Organized Crime in Japan: Yakuza vs. The Police, & Foreign Crime Gangs” (*Japan Focus*, 2/20/2012), at <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Andrew-Rankin/3692>
38. Video: 60 Minutes interview of Jake Adelstein: “The Yakuza” (November 1, 2009, 13 min + two short extras), at <http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=5486399n>
39. Jake Adelestein, “The Mob Is Big in Japan” (*Washington Post*, May 11, 2008), at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/09/AR2008050902544.html> (on yakuza Tadamasu Goto’s liver transplant in the United States)
40. Jake Adelstein, *Tokyo Vice: An American Reporter on the Police Beat in Japan* (Pantheon, 2009)

Extra Topic B – Animals and Japan

41. Video: “The Cove” (Lion’s Gate, 2009, 96 min, Sinclair DVD 9987), on dolphin hunting in Taiji
42. David McNeill, “Taiji: Japan’s Dolphin Cull and the Clash of Cultures” (*Japan Focus*, 2007), at <http://www.japanfocus.org/site/view/2306>
43. David Foster Wallace, “Consider the Lobster” (*Gourmet*, August 2004), at http://www.gourmet.com/magazine/2000s/2004/08/consider_the_lobster.html
44. Richard W. Bulliet, *Hunters, Herders, and Hamburgers: The Past and Future of Human-Animal Relationships* (Columbia University Press, 2005), ch.2, “The Stages of Human-Animal Relations” (pp.36-46) + ch.11, “The Future of Human-Animal Relations (on Japan, pp.205-224)

Extra Topic C – The American Military in Okinawa & Hawaii

45. Video: “The Wishes of 89,000 People” (2005, 25 min, Sinclair DVD 3617), about Futenma airbase in Okinawa, made by the people of Ginowan City
46. Chalmers Johnson, “The Rape of Okinawa” (*Japan Focus*, 2008), at <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Chalmers-Johnson/2686>
47. Chalmers Johnson, “737 Military Bases = Global Empire” (*Japan Focus*, 2008), at <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Chalmers-Johnson/2358>
48. Mark Selden, “War Crimes, Atrocities, and State Terrorism” (*Japan Focus*, 2008), at <http://www.japanfocus.org/site/view/2724>
49. Rick Gladstone, “Okinawa Murder Case Tests U.S.-Japan Ties Before Obama Visit” (*New York Times*, May 26, 2016), at <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/27/world/asia/japan-okinawa-murder-obama-visit.html>

Extra Topic D – Mental Illness in Japan

50. Video: “The Mystery of the Missing Million” (BBC, 2003, 45 min, Sinclair video 21298), on Japan’s *hikikomori* shut-ins
51. Maggie Jones, “Shutting Themselves In” (*New York Times Magazine*, 1/15/06), at <http://www.nytimes.com/2006/01/15/magazine/15japanese.html?ei=5090&en=7a1fdac3eb790b32&ex=1294981200&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss&pagewanted=all>
52. Video, “Suicide Forest in Japan” (2012, 21 minutes), at <https://www.tofugu.com/japan/documentaries-about-japan/>
53. James Estrin’s photographs, “Wandering in Japan’s Suicide Forest” (*New York Times*, October 25, 2012), at <http://lens.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/10/25/wandering-in-japans-suicide-forest>
54. Ethan Watters, “The Americanization of Mental Illness” (*New York Times Magazine*, January 8, 2010), at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/10/magazine/10psyche-t.html?pagewanted=all>.
55. Ethan Watters, *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche* (Free Press, 2010), ch.4, “The Mega-Marketing of Depression in Japan”, pp.187-248.