GENERAL INFORMATION

Instructor: Christine R. Yano
Class meetings: T1:30-4:00, Saunders 345
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Office hours: TuTh 10:30-11:30, and by appt

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar is intended for the graduate student committed to engaging with Japan as a field site and subject of research. The basic questions the course addresses are:

1) what are the conditions (sociocultural, political, economic, intellectual) by which Japan has been constructed by anthropologists as an object of study?
2) how has this construction shaped the questions that get asked and the answers given?
3) how has the anthropological study of Japan affected Euroamerican intellectual fields?

During the first two-thirds of the semester, the class will read and discuss broadly and historically on the object of Japan as created by primarily Euro-American scholars. Beginning with Ruth Benedict’s *Chrysanthemum and the Sword*, the class will look at ways in which this and other works were embedded within particular histories of politics and scholarship. Anthropological theory, then, will be a part of our gaze, especially as studies of Japan have been embedded within them. On the other hand, one of the critiques of anthropological studies of Japan has been the tendency not to engage with anthropological theory, creating a kind of exceptionalism. The goal of the course is to give the graduate student a firm grounding in the anthropology of Japan as a field of study, which has itself been a part of histories played out on the personal, institutional, national, and international levels.

The latter third of the semester will be devoted to students’ own research interests. Students have a choice of developing either: 1) research paper, or 2) research proposal, suitable for M.A. or Ph.D. work. The students will work one-on-one with the instructor in developing these. The semester will end with student presentations (15 minutes) of their projects as a mini-conference.

Course goals:
- Give students a basic grounding in the discipline of the anthropology of Japan.
- Familiarize students with basic works of the field
- Emphasize the changing nature of the field of study
- Allow students to develop their research interests, contextualizing their interests within that of the field of Japanese anthropological studies.

Weekly Readings & Precis

Each week there will be one or two student facilitators, depending on the size of the class. (Every student must facilitate TWO class sessions during the semester. Sign-up sheet on 1st day
of class.) The duties of the students facilitators are as follows:
- Write a precis for the reading for the week (designated in calendar with an asterisk). This should be distributed to all students via the course website or email by Mon 4pm prior to class.
- Write a precis on one additional reading from the suggested readings. You may bring hard copies of these to class.
- Generate 3-4 questions to guide our discussion. These should also be distributed to other students by Mon 4pm.
- Lead the discussion in class.

The facilitation will be graded.

Precis: please follow this format. Keep precis precise--1-2 pages. Please indicate the name of the precis writer in the upper right hand corner. The title of your precis should be the bibliographic citations of the book. Include the following as headings:
- author’s central research question
- theoretical orientation
- methodology [include details of when and where fieldwork was conducted, as well as methodologies used]
- brief summary of findings
- your comments, critique

All students will be expected to read the designated reading (indicated in the syllabus with an asterisk *) and be prepared to discuss the questions that are posed by facilitators. There will be a few weeks when there is no common designated reading, and students can select from among the readings listed.

I may be inviting guest speakers or decide to show a relevant video during the semester. In that case, I will notify the facilitators, who will be carrying out their responsibilities during a shortened period of class time.

TEXTS:
I have ordered the following books available at the bookstore.
Allison, Anne - 1994, *Nightwork*
Benedict, Ruth - 1946 *Chrysanthemum and the Sword*
Ivy, Marilyn - 1995 *Discourses of the Vanishing*
Iwabuchi, Koichi - 2003 *Recentering Globalization*
Kondo, Dorinne - 1990 *Crafting Selves*
Robertson, Jennifer - 1991 *Native and Newcomer*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
- Mid-term: 40%
- Paper: 40%
- Facilitations: 20%
MID-TERM: 10/25
The mid-term is an in-class closed-book exam.

The exam questions are exactly that posed in the course:
1) what are the conditions (sociocultural, political, economic, intellectual) by which Japan has been constructed by anthropologists as an object of study?
2) how has this construction shaped the questions that get asked and the answers given?
3) how has the anthropological study of Japan affected Euroamerican intellectual fields?

In short, the goal of the midterm is to get you to reflect upon the two-way conversation between Euroamerican anthropology and Japan as an object of study.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL / PAPER 15-20 pgs
An important goal of the course is to give you the opportunity to write a research proposal or paper. In general, I recommend that students try their hand at a research proposal, however if you are in the midst of writing a thesis or dissertation, you may submit a chapter of it as fulfilling this part of the course. For most students, the time when they will be working intensively on this paper is after the midterm. This means only six weeks to complete a major paper. Please adhere to the following deadlines:

10/11 Paper topic due submitted electronically. Briefly introduce the topic, central research question, data sources, etc. (1 pg). If you are having trouble coming up with a paper topic, please see me prior to this and we can explore possibilities.
11/08 Tentative bibliography
11/22 Paper outline
12/06 Oral presentations (15 minutes, incl. Q/A)
12/08 Final drafts due in my mailbox by 4pm

CALENDAR
Wk 1 (8/23) introduction to the course

Wk 2 (8/30) *Ruth Benedict - Chrysanthemum and the Sword

Wk 3 (9/06) early (mostly village-based) ethnographies
John Embree, 1939 - Suye Mura
Smith and Wiswell,1982, The Women of Suye Mura
Beardsley, et al, 1959 - Village Japan
Ronald P. Dore, 1958 - City Life in Japan
Ronald P. Dore, 1978 - Shinohata

Wk 4 (9/13) 1970s theorizing (and beyond)
*Takei Lebra, 1976 - Japanese Patterns of Behavior
Takeo Doi, 1973 - The Anatomy of Dependence
Chie Nakane, 1970 - *Japanese Society*

Wk 5 (9/20) 1980s, 1990s - urban ethnographies
*Jennifer Robertson, 1991 - *Native and Newcomer*
Ezra Vogel, 1971 - *Japan’s New Middle Class*
Ted Bestor, 1989 - *Neighborhood Tokyo*
Matthews Hamabata, 1990 - *Crested Kimono*

Wk 6 (9/27) 1980s, 1990s - urban ethnographies, cont.
Walter Edwards, 1989 - *Modern Japan through its Weddings*
Merry White, 1993 - *The Material Child*
Glenda Roberts, 1999 - *Staying on the Line*

Wk 7 (10/4) 1990s pre-postmodernism
*Dorinne Kondo, 1990 - *Crafting Selves*
Norma Field, 1991 - *In the Realm of the Dying Emperor*
(from the field of history)

Wk 8 (10/11) 1990s-2000s - gender, feminism (and one 1980s work on women)
*Anne Allison, 1994 - *Nightwork*
Takie Lebra, 1984 - *Japanese Women*
Yuko Ogasawara, 1998 - *Office Ladies and Salaried Men*
Karen Kelsky, 2001 - *Women on the Verge*
* NOTE: Paper topic DUE*

Wk 9 (10/18) 1990s postmodernism
*Marilyn Ivy, 1995 - *Discourses of the Vanishing*
Masao Miyoshi and H.D. Harootunian, eds. 1989 *Postmodernism and Japan* (mixed history)

Wk 10 (10/25) **MID-TERM**

Wk 11 (11/1) 1990s-2000s popular culture
*Koichi Iwabuchi, 2003 - *Recentering Globalization*
Ikuya Sato, 1992 - *Kamikaze Biker*
Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney, 1993 *Rice as Self*
Aviad Raz, 1999 - *Riding the Black Ship.*
Christine Yano 2002 - *Tears of Longing*
Joseph Tobin, ed. 2004 - *Pikachu’s Global Adventure*
William Kelly, ed. 2004 - *Fanning the Flames*
Miller, Laura 2006  *Beauty Up; Exploring Contemporary Japanese Body Aesthetics*
Anne Allison, 2006 - *Millenial Monsters; Japanese Toys and the Global Imagination*
Ian Condry, 2006 - *Hip-hop Japan; Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization*
Sabine Fruhstucke, 2007 - *Uneasy Warriors; Gender, Memory, and Popular Culture in the Japanese Army*
Marvin Sterling, 2010 - *Babylon East; Performing Dancehall, Roots Reggae, and Rastafari in Japan.*

*NOTE: Tentative bibliography DUE*

Wk 12 (11/08)  1990s-2000s minorities
Sonia Ryang, 1997 - *North Koreans in Japan*
Michael Weiner, ed. 1997 - *Japan’s Minorities; The Illusion of Homogeneity*
Edward Fowler, 1996 - *San’ya Blues*
Joshua Roth, 2002 - *Brokered Homeland*
Takeyuki Tsuda, 2003 - *Strangers in the Ethnic Homeland*
John Lie, 2004 - *Multiethnic Japan*
Karen Nakamura 2008 - *Deaf in Japan; Signing and the Politics of Identity*
Christopher Nelson 2008 - *Dancing with the Dead: Memory, Performance, and Everyday Life in Postwar Okinawa.*

Wk 13 (11/15) NO CLASS – INDIVIDUAL WORK ON PROJECTS

Wk 14 (11/22) from fields other than anthropology
- NOTE: no student facilitator. Each student is to write a precis of one of the following and be prepared to discuss.
Vlastos, Stephen, ed. 1998  *Mirror of Modernity; Invented Traditions of Modern Japan*
Igarashi, Yoshikuni 2000  *Bodies of Memory; Narratives of War in Postwar Japanese Culture, 1945-1970*
Yoda, Tomiko and Harry Harootunian, eds. 2006  *Japan after Japan; Social and Cultural Life from the Recessionary 1990s to the Present*
Walker, Brett L. 2010 *Toxic Archipelago; A History of Industrial Disease in Japan*
- or other selections based on student bibliographies
*NOTE: Paper outline DUE*

Wk 15 (11/29) workshop on projects

Wk 16 (12/06) final presentations

12/08 FINAL PAPERS DUE IN MY MAILBOX BY 4PM.