University of California, Davis
Humanities 180
Japanese Culture: Popular and Traditional
Tentative schedule for 2015

Lecture/Discussion: MTWTh 9:00 ~ 11:50
Film Viewing/Discussion: M 1:00 ~ 3:50 & F 9:00 ~ 11:50
Cultural Lesson: 2 hrs/wk M 6:00pm ~ 8:00pm with some exceptions

1. Course Description and Objects:
The ultimate object of this course is that students will learn to analyze and apply critical thinking to how societies change and traditional values continue to influence contemporary perspectives. At the end of the course, students will be able to compare and contrast the fundamental themes of this course with their own American culture.

This course explores how the traditional values have been influencing the contemporary popular culture in Japan. The course examines the development of the Japanese popular culture in traditions and history after World War II, and reveals messages hidden in major works such as films, music, theater, anime, manga (Japanese comic books) and media.

Students will gain knowledge and a clear understanding of the Japanese traditional values through readings, hands-on cultural lessons, visiting historical sites and active participations in class discussions. The discussion themes focus on the following:

1) how the gender differences and stereotypes are presented
2) what kind of roles religions and nature play
3) how the concept of good and evil is dealt with
4) how technology and humanity intermingle
5) how the Japanese identity and their self-images have changed

2. Course Materials:
Textbooks:
• Antonia Levi, Samurai from Outer Space, (Open Court, 1999)
• Course Reader

3. Grade Breakdown:
The following breakdown is used to determine the final grade for the course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discovery Sheets</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assignments</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Theme Tests</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Examination</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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4. Lectures, Discussions, Film Viewings and Cultural Lessons:
The course consists of four three-hour lecture/discussion sessions, two three-hour film viewing/discussion sessions and one two-hour cultural lesson per week for four weeks. Students are expected to attend all classes. If you miss classes, 1% will be deducted from your course grade for each absence. Failure to attend these classes will not only result in a possible lower grade, but
also prevent you from gaining full knowledge of both the Japanese contemporary and traditional culture, and achieving the expected course objectives. Students are required to finish reading assigned materials, grasp the contents of the materials and complete assignments prior to class. It is crucial for students to be prepared since preparation promotes active discussion and participation. Students are also expected to participate in class (lectures/discussions/cultural lessons) actively, apply their critical thinking and express their analytical observations clearly in class. Since the lecture is mostly conducted in a seminar format, student's active participation is critical.

To encourage preparation and active participation in class, you will be assigned a weekly class-performance grade on a scale of 1-4 as follows:

1: You are present, but do not seem to have prepared for class.
2: You are somewhat prepared for class, but not sufficient to grasp the contents of reading materials. As a result, you fail to discuss and analyze the contents.
3: You are somewhat prepared for class, and able to discuss the contents. However, you lack strong critical thinking and analytical observations.
4: You are well prepared for class and discuss the contents critically and objectively with supports from the reading materials.

5. Theme Tests, Quizzes and Examination:
There will be a theme test every Friday and quizzes on cultural lessons throughout the course. The tests focus on each topic of weekly themes and evaluate students' progress. The contents of tests are based on reading materials, films presented in class and contents of the lectures/discussion sessions. The Final Exam will be two hours. Tests, quizzes and the final examination missed because of tardiness or unexcused absence cannot be made up.

6. Term Paper:
Students are required to turn in one 4-5 page term paper at the end of the course. The paper format should be double-spaced with less than 2-inch margins in all four sides and with fonts no larger than Courier/Time 12. The paper should include a title page clearly marked with the course number, title and student’s name, and, at the end, references. The term paper should be submitted in the drop-box on SmartSite.

Three movies are preselected for students to analyze for the term paper. The instructor assigns a particular movie to analyze for the final paper at the beginning of the third week. Students are expected to argue that there are still traditional values affected the modern Japanese society and reflected in the Japanese popular culture. Intellectual arguments of pros and cons for the traditional values found in a movie with supporting evidence are required. Persuasive discussion of possible reasons why those traditional values survive in the modern society is also expected. Students must use other popular culture media which is discussed in class such as anime, manga, TV programs, commercials, advertisements and music, in order to support their arguments.

Students are expected to express their critical, analytical and comparative views with supporting evidence. The paper should include a clear short introduction and a strong conclusion. The paper that offers mere presentations of facts and quotes from books will not be graded highly.

Choice of Movies:
TBA

7. Instructor:
I will be available for consultation during my office hours and at other times by appointment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Office Hours</th>
<th>e-mail</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Miyo Uchida</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:myuchida@ucdavis.edu">myuchida@ucdavis.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Units: 4units
Grading: P/NP

Teaching Schedule:
- Group Discussion       W 1:00-2:50
- Independent Group Discussion (1.5 hours /week)
  - Each group should decide their meeting hours and inform the instructor by the end of the first week.

This Directed Group Study requires students to have a strong desire and full commitment to research on a topic related to humanities/society in Japan.

Students have two hours of contact time per week with the instructor. This two-hour session is mostly led by students, and should be used to present project progress reports and exchange individual discoveries. Students are required to participate in discussions actively. They are also expected to set up a 1.5-hour independent group session per week and inform the instructor of the detailed schedule by the end of the first week.

The instructor guides students to form a group project with a topic related to the course Humanities 180: Japanese Culture – popular and traditional. The topic should not be the ones covered in Humanities 180. The project proposal sheet (available in "Course Reader"/ one proposal sheet per group) must be submitted by the end of the first week. The topic must be approved by the instructor. The group has to turn in a Group Studies Progress Report, which is available in "Course Reader" every Thursday in class.

Students are required to present their projects on the last day of instruction. Each student also has to write an analytical report on his or her project topic with supporting materials, and submit it on the last day of instruction by 5:00 pm in the Drop-Box on SmartSite. The report should be double-spaced and 1-page in length. It should focus on your findings and offer intellectual reasoning for your findings.

Students are expected to create a scrapbook-journal and have at least three entries from different days per week. The scrapbook-journal should be turned in every Friday and focus on the “journal” part with both discoveries and possible reasoning.

Course Materials:
Different reading materials will be assigned and suggested based on an individual project.

Grade Breakdown:
- Participation 20%
- Scrapbook-journal 30%
- Group Studies Progress Reports 15%
- Project Presentation 20%
  - Proposal 5%
  - One-page report 10%