

Course Title	Contemporary Japanese Society and Culture in Anthropological Perspective
---------------------	---

Course Description	This course will provide an introduction to contemporary Japanese society and culture from an anthropological perspective. We will cover various themes – from Nihonjin-ron (theories of Japanese-ness) to religion – and students are expected to relate their readings with everyday experiences throughout the course.
Prerequisite	A general interest in contemporary Japanese society and culture
Instructor	Sachiko Horiguchi
Goals	By the end of the course, students will be able to critically engage in English language scholarship on Japanese society and culture, and will have a nuanced understanding of contemporary Japanese society and culture.
Textbook	No textbook will be used. Instructions on materials will be given by the instructor in the first class.
Grading	Final course grades will be based on the results of: Attendance 20% Class participation 30% Homework (self-introduction essay, reading notes) 25% Presentation 20% Presentation self-reflection 5% A: 100-90% B:89 – 80% C:79-70% D:69-60% F: Below 59%
Notes	In the case of absences, as general policy, NO make-up work will be given without a valid, documented excuse.

Schedule

No.	Date	Topic	Content	Homework
1	July 25	Introduction	Overview of the course	No homework due
2	July 26	What's anthropology?	Approaches & methods	Introduction essay due
3	July 27	Nihonjin-ron	Who are 'the Japanese'?	Reading notes due
4	July 28	Critiques of Nihonjin-ron	Is Nihonjin-ron accurate	Reading notes due
5	July 29	Early socialization	A 'good child' in Japan	Reading notes due
6	Aug 1	Education	Strengths & weaknesses	Reading notes due
7	Aug 2	Gender & sexuality	Continuities & changes	Reading notes due
8	Aug 3	Religion	Are the Japanese religious?	Reading notes due
9	Aug 4	Food cultures	Identities & sociality of food	Reading notes due
10	Aug 5	Ethnic diversity	Towards a multicultural Japan	Presentation reflection due