

# IS 2200

## Perspectives on Japan

### Course Policies

T R 1:00 - 2:45 in Mathematics and Science Center 384

Instructor: William Londo

468 Varner Hall

ph. 248-370-3521

e-mail [londo@oakland.edu](mailto:londo@oakland.edu)

office hours: T, Th 5:00-6:00 p.m.

[Click here for week-by-week schedule](#)

### Course Objectives

This course will be an introduction to the culture and history of Japan. The objective of this course is to equip students with basic knowledge of Japan's history and culture. Students will gain knowledge of its history, its particular art forms and how they evolved, contemporary society, family life, and business and politics.

### Course Materials

- Sugimoto, Yoshio. *An Introduction to Japanese Society* – ISBN 9781107626676
- Varley, Paul. *Japanese Culture* – ISBN 9780824821524

These books should be available at the OU Bookstore. All other readings will be available via [OU library electronic resources](#) or [Moodle](#) and will be indicated on the class schedule. Links to readings are provided as a courtesy. In case of a non-functioning link, notify me and proceed to Moodle or the relevant electronic database to acquire the reading. Remember that **you must print out the reading and bring it to class on the day it is assigned and read it before coming to class that day.**

### Grading

**Grading for this course is as follows:**

<a href="#">map assignment – due Thursday of Week 2</a> (see assignment for more information) (Click here for the Perry-Casteñeda map website.)	5%
<a href="#">summary response papers</a> (see below for more information)	30%

<a href="#">“Japan in the news”</a> <a href="#">(see below for more information)</a>	15%
<a href="#">weekly reflections</a> (weekly; 3 lowest scores dropped)	20%
<a href="#">final exam</a>	10%
<a href="#">class engagement</a>	20%

Class members will be required to give **weekly reflections** each week in which they will do two things: 1) identify one important thing learned from the week's readings, and explain why it is important. These reflections should be submitted via the **discussion forums** that appear each week on Moodle. Class members should also feel free to raise questions about the readings or comments on other students' contributions by replying to their posts. Each class member's contribution(s) to each week's forum will be graded, but the **lowest three** grades will be dropped when final grades are calculated. Weekly reflections will be assessed on relevance, clarity and accuracy of presentation, and use of and/or reference to readings assigned for that week.

**Discussion forum contributions for a given week must be completed by noon Tuesday of that week.** (Deadline for submission is indicated on each week's forum.)

The **final exam** will take place during the scheduled final exam period and will consist of fill-in-the-blank and short answer questions on topics covered in the course of the term. It will give you an opportunity to strengthen your understanding of the various facets of Japan past and present we have covered in class.

**Class engagement** means coming to class having done the day's assigned reading and being prepared to ask and answer questions, work in small groups, and debate issues. Needless to say, **you must attend class in order to participate**. Furthermore, leaving early, **leaving the room in the middle of class**, or consistently coming late will be considered absences, as will ringing cell phones. Don't bring your cell phone to class. **Failure to bring assigned reading materials to class, particularly material that is likely to be the subject of discussion, will affect your class participation grade negatively as well.** I reserve the right to give quizzes on assigned readings to ensure everyone has prepared for class.

The **“Japan in the News”** requirement is to give **one (1) 5 to 7 minute class presentation** on some news item from Japan during the last week of the term. It is recommended you begin your discussion by giving some context for the news item, by using information we've covered in class when possible, and then explaining the significance of the item. Other class members will be given time to ask questions or add comments on the item. Be prepared to let me know by e-mail [during the week indicated on the class meeting schedule](#) what news item you will be presenting on. Possible sources for news items include the Kyodo News Service, and the Japan Times, Asahi, and Yomiuri newspaper sites. You may also want to look at [japantoday.com](#) and [newsonjapan.com](#), or you can do a search for a topic you are interested in and look news sites that have articles on it. Please let me know the news item you'll be presenting on by sending me the link by e-mail.

## [Schedule](#)

You are responsible for checking the course schedule frequently and keeping up to date on what reading and other work is required for a particular class meeting. **All reading and other work assigned for a given week must be completed prior to the first class meeting that week.**

## Papers

There will be four (4) summary response papers due during the term. These will be **600 to 1000 words in length** and will present **a summary and thoughtful reflection upon each of any four articles** assigned in the course of the term. Note that this **does not include readings from Sugimoto or Varley**. If you are unsure if an article qualifies, ask me. Please let me know via e-mail or in class by [the date indicated on the class meeting schedule](#) which articles you plan to write on (or have written on). In these papers, you will reflect on what the articles you are writing about have taught you about Japan. I may periodically suggest questions for you to consider in composing your summary response papers, including via the weekly discussion forums. Summary response papers must be typed, double-spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and with one inch margins on all sides and **stapled** together, and include your name and the date of submission in the header of each page. When you refer to a reading, you must indicate what you are referring to by giving an abbreviated citation made up of the author's name (or abbreviated title if the author's name is not given) and the page number in parentheses. Absent or unclear documentation will lead to lower grades. These papers will be graded on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being "above the clouds." You have wide latitude in the approach you take, but be warned that papers will be judged on quality of both composition and content. **Papers are due in hard copy Tuesday of the week the article you are writing about is assigned as a reading**, but you may turn them in anytime before then. **Note that the [policy on late papers, stated below](#), applies to summary response papers, but I will not accept any paper more than one class period late.** Usually, I will read and mark papers as soon as class is over and return them the next class period. **I will drop the lowest of your four summary response paper grades** when calculating this component of your course grade.

## Academic integrity

In completing these assignments, **you must do your own work** rather than buying, begging, borrowing, or stealing it from someone else. In particular, **relying on the internet as a source of information is a big mistake**. Any idiot can put something on the internet, and countless numbers have done so. If you plagiarize off the internet, not only will you probably produce inferior writing, I will catch you and you'll get a zero anyway. Anything you can find on the internet, I can, too, and I have plenty of experience spotting fraudulent work. Punishment for plagiarism can range from a zero for the assignment to failure of the course. Simply put, plagiarism will not serve you well. [Click here for more information about what constitutes plagiarism \(and OU's academic integrity policy\).](#)

## Policy on Late Papers

I view the relationship between student and instructor as a cooperative one devoted to learning. Both student and instructor must uphold the relationship if it is to be successful. In practical terms, this means that the instructor has a right to expect prompt submission of papers, and the

student likewise has a right to expect prompt evaluation and return of those papers. My policy, therefore, is that a paper is due on the date stated but may be handed in anytime before I finish grading them. **Once I finish marking a batch of papers, I will not accept any papers belonging to that batch.** Furthermore, I will not speculate about how long it will take me to grade a batch of papers, so don't bother asking. I often finish more quickly than I expect, so if you decide to hand in your paper after the due date, you do so at the risk of receiving a zero for the paper.

## **Policy on technology use in the classroom**

You may use electronic technology (computer, tablet, even smartphone) during class, but only for activity related to what is occurring in the classroom at the time. If you appear distracted or disengaged from classroom activity, I will ask you to turn off and put away the offending item, and your class participation grade will be negatively affected. Repeated violations of this policy may result in the banning of technology use in the classroom. In general, phones should be turned to silent mode or, preferably, turned off. Note that [it has now been shown that students who take notes using a computer perform more poorly than students who use a notebook and pen](#) (*Psychological Science*, June 2014 vol. 25 no. 6, 1159-1168).

## **Students with Disabilities**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability in order to properly execute coursework should contact the [Office of Disability Support Services](#), ph. (248) 370-3266, and follow all DSS procedures. Students with documented disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in this class. If you have a disability that affects your academic performance, it is strongly recommended that you make an appointment with me to discuss the accommodations you require once you have been evaluated by DSS. This must be done within the first three weeks of the semester.

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