

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Special Topics: From Japonisme to Cool Japan**

Course Number and Section:

JAPANESE

3950F 550

Instructor Name(s): Christopher White

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

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A historical and contemporary examination of Japanese trends and phenomena that have attracted the attention of the world. Over the last few decades, the internet and media have paid particular attention to Japan's popular culture, often dubbing the country "Cool" or "Unique". This has spurred on a world-wide fascination with Japan resulting in large numbers of people around the world travelling to the country for tourism, consuming its popular culture, and studying Japanese at universities. Throughout this course, we will examine these trends and phenomena in order to better understand their origins, their cultural significance, and the global influence they leave behind.

Class Methods:

The course presupposes no knowledge of Japanese civilization. Students investigate – and formulate questions – on Japan and its popular culture within today's globalized world, identify their own cultural bias toward less familiar subjects, and critically evaluate diverse perspectives. Students are expected to prepare for each class by doing short (preliminary) research.

Learning Outcomes:

- knowledge and understanding of the main parameters of Japan Studies and East Asian Studies;
- their ability and skills in discussing and analyzing topics related to Japan;
- critical reading and thinking skills on the subject matter;
- their ability to use modern research methods;
- their ability to evaluate the relevance and importance of different ideas.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

N/A

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Final Paper	11/28/2024	30%
Participation		20%
Presentation		20%
First Short Paper	10/03/2024	10%
Second Short Paper	10/31/2024	10%
Third Short Paper	12/05/2024	10%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Monday, September 2, 2024