565:362 Japanese Popular Culture
Spring 2012
MW 1:10-2:30
Hardenbergh Hall Room A6

Instructor: Satoru Saito
Office Hours: MW 11:30am-1pm (Scott Hall 338)
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Overview

This course considers the various facets of Japanese popular culture with two major goals in mind: first, a better understanding of Japanese grammar and expressions, both formal and colloquial, and the development of the ability to express opinions and criticisms in Japanese; and second, a critical examination of Japanese culture and its popular representations. Given these goals, the class will involve lessons and discussion in both Japanese and English and share time between language acquisition and cultural criticism.

Requirements

2 short papers (3 pages) in English (1st=7.5%, 2nd=12.5%) 20%
2 tests (20% each) 40%
Presentation in English (5-7 minutes) 10%
4 presentation responses in Japanese (2.5% each x 4) 10%
Final report based on presentation in English (5 pages) 10%
Class attendance and performance (including vocab quiz) 10%

Note on Academic Integrity: You are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. For details, please see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/. I will also be glad to discuss with you any concerns or questions you have on this issue.

Note on absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Required Texts

There are no required textbooks for purchase. Instead, students are asked to purchase the course packet from the instructor.

Schedule (subject to change)

1/18 Introduction
UNIT I: The Written and the Drawn

A. The Battle of the Manga: Shônen vs. Shôjo

1/23  Shônen manga: Tenisu no ôjisama
1/25  Shônen manga: Naruto; also read short article by assistant manga writer
1/30  Shôjo manga: Oishii kankei
2/1   Shôjo manga: Otomen
2/6   PAPER #1 DUE; discussion

B. The Question of Media

2/8   Read Seymour Chatman article; Manga: Yotsuba-to
2/13  Manga: Bambino
2/15  Manga: Nodame kantabire
2/20  Novel: Kino no tabi
2/22  Novel cont’d; viewing of Kino no tabi anime
2/27  Discussion cont’d
2/29  PAPER #2 DUE; discussion
3/5   Review
3/7   TEST #1

3/12  Spring Break
3/14  Spring Break

UNIT II: Popular Representations and Phenomena of Contemporary Japan

3/19  Cultural Analysis and Grammar Overview
3/21  Cultural Analysis and Grammar Overview, cont’d
3/26  Presentation #1 (Pop Art)
3/28  RESPONSE #1 DUE; discussion #1
4/2   Presentation #2 (Pop Music)
4/4   RESPONSE #2 DUE; discussion #2
4/9   Presentation #3 (Street Fashion)
4/11  RESPONSE #3 DUE; discussion #3
4/16  Presentation #4 (Video Games and Internet Culture)
4/18  RESPONSE #4 DUE; discussion #4
4/23  Presentation #5 (Commercials and other topics)
4/25  RESPONSE #5 DUE; discussion #5
4/30  Review

5/8   TEST #2; 12pm to 3pm; PRESENTATION REPORT DUE at the beginning of class