

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)

Email: ssaito@rci.rutgers.edu**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 (1 st =7.5%, 2 nd =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: Shōnen vs. Shōjo

- 1/23 Shōnen manga: *Tenisu no ôjisama*
- 1/25 Shōnen manga: *Naruto*; also read short article by assistant manga writer
- 1/30 Shōjo manga: *Oishii kankei*
- 2/1 Shōjo 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 kantaabire*
- 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