JPN 3500
JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY
~FROM EDO TO TOKYO~
Spring 2015
MWF 11:00-11:50 (PC/212)
MWF 2:00-2:50 (GC 289)
Global Learning Course

Instructor: Masako Kubota
Office Hours: by appointment only
makubota@fiu.edu

COURSE TEXT BOOKS:
- Heine, Steven. *Sacred High City, Sacred Low City*, Oxford University Press. 2012

Additional readings will be provided by instructor on Blackboard

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:
This course will examine Japan, focusing on the culture, societal life of people and the geography of Japan. A multi-perspective approach will be used to experiment during the semester including: class and gender, the effects of modernization and globalization, and daily life and diversions in *Edo the city that became Tokyo*. Students will explore not only the traditional art including Nō play, Kabuki, and Bunraku, but also current events and contemporary social concerns. Students will examine on local, global, international and intercultural levels and encourage engagement in problem solving.

GLOBAL LEARNING COURSE OUTCOMES:
By the end of the semester, students should demonstrate global awareness, global perspective and global engagement through their ability to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of globalization and diverse aspects of Japanese culture. (Global Awareness)
2. Conduct a multi-perspective analysis of contemporary social issues of Japan, as well as some historical events. (Global Perspective)
3. Demonstrate willingness to address contemporary issues in Japan by making suggested plans of action. (Global Engagement)
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The class format will include lecture, film and in class group discussions. There will be a heavy emphasis on class room discussions, so students must be prepared for every class meeting. The discussions are meant to take the lecture material to a more critical level, involving students to generate their own questions to be analyzed during class.

Each student is expected to complete two in class exams, five one-page current event journals, in class presentation of discussion leading, and the final paper with PowerPoint presentation of people and the lives in Edo period. PLEASE NOTE: The instructor will take off points if the above writing assignment requirements are not adhered to. The current event journal will need to be submitted through Blackboard Turnitin.

DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT (Examine Class Schedules for the due date)

1. IN CLASS EXAMS
There will be two exams in this course. The format will include multiple choices, matching, true or false and short answers. Exam questions will be derived from lecture, Weekly Study Questions, class discussions and PowerPoint. Exams cannot be made up. If an emergency arises, it is imperative that you contact the instructor BEFORE the test date.

II. CURRENT EVENT JOURNAL (Global Awareness)
This assignment is meant to keep students up to date with current news events regarding Japanese culture and society. In order to fully understand the impact that Japan has on the rest of the world today, as well as the impact of globalization on diverse aspects of Japanese society, each student will collect and comment on one news article (less than 3 month old) that relates to a contemporary issues dealing with interrelate with Japanese society. Recommended news sources are available on Blackboard file. (There will be 3 journals to be submitted.)

For every journal entry, a series of points will need to be addressed that examine the student’s awareness of local, global, international and intercultural issues that interrelate with Japanese society. The student will also be expected to comment on each article. More information will be given about this assignment in the class.

III. GROUP STUDY: Group Research and Group Discussions (Global Perspective)
As a small group activity, we will read Sacred High City, Sacred Low City that introduces Japanese religion. After assigned a section of the book to read, each group examines and research two Tokyo Neighborhoods, High City and Low City. The method of presenting has two steps. First of all, each group will present the assigned research by PowerPoint. Secondly,
students examine and discuss the influence of the religious society during Edo into the modern Tokyo society as well as students’ lives, and the global world. As for Group Discussion, same group will read and examine *Honor: Samurai Philosophy of Life*. Then we discuss in a small group about *Bushi-Do*. After this discussion session, we will have a seminar and share three aspects of *Bushi-Do*.

**IV. FINAL PAPER and POWERPOINT PRESENTATION (Global Engagement)**

After reading *Edo Culture*, we will explore the method called “Reacting to the Past.” Each student plays a role of citizens who contributed to form Edo’s cultural life. Along this process, students demonstrate willingness to address contemporary issues in Japan. The method of the final paper has two steps. First of all, each person will present the Edo character by PowerPoint, then write a final paper. Details of the final paper are posted on the Blackboard.

**V. DISCUSSION LEADING**

Each student will be assigned to be a discussion leader. The discussions are meant to take the reading material to a more critical level, involving students to generate their own questions to be analyzed during class.

**COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (10%) Weekly Quizzes (7%) Discussion leading (3%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three Current Event Journal</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Exams</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group research: <em>Sacred High City, Sacred Low City</em></td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Discussion: <em>Honor: Samurai Philosophy of Life</em></td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Final paper and PowerPoint presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**GRADING SCALE:**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>A-</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES:**

**I. ATTENDANCE and CLASS PARTICIPATION**

It is important for students to attend class in order to be successful in this course. If a student arrives later or leaves early it is **BOTH** disruptive to the lecturer and students alike. To alleviate this from happening I will count **ONE** absence for every **TWO** late arrivals or early departures. Class participation is required and is necessary to achieve an “A” in this course.
Student input is important and vital to a university education and is meant to challenge students to think deeply and critically, therefore dialogue is highly encouraged. Attendance and class participation will make up 20% of the course grade. **Penalty of absences** are as follow (No extra work can make up for the absences).

- Being 15 minutes late or leaving 15 minutes early three times will equal one absence.
- One grade lower for more than 4 inexcusable absences.
- Two grades lower for more than 6 inexcusable absences.
- One letter grade lower for more than 8 inexcusable absences.

**II. CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**

In our increasingly technological world, the classroom is becoming more versatile and inter-active. However, some technological advances pose a threat to the classroom environment and therefore special rules need to be applied to them. IF you have a laptop and plan to bring it to class for any reason, you MUST be using the computer for class room note taking or to further the discussion of Japanese Culture and Society during class. Cell phones are a major distraction and usually improperly used during classroom time. Please SILENT all phones prior to entering the classroom and refrain from using them FOR ANY REASON. This would include text messaging, receiving phone calls, browsing internet, and gaming.

IF the instructor sees that above rules are broken even by one student, ALL privileges will be revoked for the ENTIRE class and everyone’s class participation grade will suffer. Let us not allow a few bad apples to spoil the entire bundle. Take this as a WARNING!

**III. PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is defined as “literally theft,” and will **NOT** be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of may include:

1. A written work that is **ENTIRELY** stolen from another source
2. Using quotations from source without proper citation
3. Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation

Students are expected to UNDERSTAND the definition of plagiarism. To view the University Code of Academic Integrity please visit [http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm](http://www.fiu.edu/~oabp/misconductweb/2codeofacainteg.htm)

When all else fails; ASK the instructor for help. If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.
**IF A STUDENT IS CAUGHT PLAGIARIZING PUBLISHED OR UNPUBLISHED MATERIALS (INCLUDING THE WORK OF CLASSMATES OR FRIENDS) YOU WILL RECEIVE A (0) FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.**

**IV. LATE PAPERS**  
Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor and is therefore, highly discouraged.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

| Week 1 | 1/12-1/18 | Getting to know one another  
1/12: Introduction, Understanding the syllabus  
1/14: The Emergence of Japanese Civilization  
1/16: *Modern Japanese Culture, Chapter 3*, "Language."  
Selected article: the file is in the Blackboard |
| Week 2 | 1/19-1/25 | 1/19: Martin Luther King Holiday  
1/21: #1 Journal is due  
Selected article: the file is in the Blackboard  
1/23: Introduction of Buddhism. |
| Week 3 | 1/26-2/01 | 1/26: Kadensho  
1/28: Kadensho  
1/31: Kadensho |
| Week 4 | 2/02-2/08 | 2/02: #2 Journal is due  
2/02: *Sacred High City, Sacred Low City: Introduction*  
2/04: Form groups for Group presentation project  
2/06: Lecture by Dr. Heine |
| Week 5 | 2/09-2/15 | 2/09: Sacred High City, Sacred Low City/ Progress Report  
2/11: Map of Edo  
2/13: Go to the temples by Google Earth |
| Week 6 | 2/16-2/22 | 2/16: #3 Journal is due  
2/16: Presentation for the Group Study, group 1-4  
2/18: Presentation for the Group Study, group 5-8 |
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>2/20-2/27</td>
<td><strong>First Exam Review</strong></td>
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<td>2/23-3/01</td>
<td><strong>First Exam</strong>&lt;br&gt;2/25: Introduction to <em>Honor: Samurai Philosophy of life (Bushi-do)</em>&lt;br&gt;2/27: attend Southern Japan Seminar&lt;br&gt;2/27: Form research groups for <em>Honor: Samurai Philosophy of life (Bushi-do)</em> Discussion in Group Wiki</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>3/02-3/08</td>
<td>3/02: <em>Edo Culture: Chapter 1/ Warriors City</em>&lt;br&gt;3/04: Lecture by Kaz Tanahashi&lt;br&gt;3/06: Round table discussion on Bushi Do</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>3/09-3/15</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>4/06-4/12</td>
<td>4/06: Final Paper Edo Character Abstract is due&lt;br&gt;4/08: Second Exam Review&lt;br&gt;4/10: Second Exam&lt;br&gt;4/12: Edo Character/ PowerPoint presentation/ Progress report</td>
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(Above schedule is subject to change)