J. F. Oberlin University

CISaustralia
Study | Intern | Volunteer Abroad

JAPANESE SOCIETY AND GENDER
ACADEMIC COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE NAME:
Cross-Cultural Studies - Japanese Society and Gender

COURSE CODE: 268905

CREDITS:
The course meets for a minimum of 45 hours per two week period. Students receive 4 Oberlin University credits and a Certificate of Completion for passing with a minimum grade of a D.

MEETING TIMES:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday (days may vary based on activity schedule)
Periods: 1 – 4 (periods and times may vary based on activity schedule)

DESCRIPTION:
The focus of this course is to give an expansive outline of gender, sexuality and society with a specific spotlight on contemporary Japanese society. Class content exposes material from sociologists, historians, journalists, and literary scholars to analyze how gender and sexuality has been socially developed and experienced in post war Japan.

COURSE LEVELS:
Classes are taught and conducted in English. No Japanese language level is required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES/ OUTCOMES:
By the end of the session, students should be able to:

1) Understand how gender and society interact in Japan.
2) Understand and analyze the main theories of gender and sexuality in Japan.
3) Think beyond gender stereotypes that may be found in contemporary Japan.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:
Lecture, participatory (dialogical, reciprocal learning), inquiry (research & inquiry, cooperative group, engage by generating questions), critical thinking and constructive thinking (analyzing and examining media, multiple alternative culture), creative future thinking (action agenda, root cause, exchange ideas).

TEXTBOOK(S) AND/OR CLASS MATERIALS:
The instructor will provide class materials.

GRADING, CERTIFICATE, GRADING PLAN & EVALUATION:
All students will get a grade for this academic course. You will also get a Certificate of Completion at the end of the course. Students who do not pass with a letter grade of D or above will not be awarded a Certificate of Completion.

Grading Scale:
100–90% = A (Excellent)
89–80% = B (Good)
79–70% = C (Satisfactory)
69–60% = D (Passing but Needs Improvement)
59% and below = F (Failing)

Grade Breakdown:
Class Participation - 25%
Active involvement in classroom drills, discussions, and activities.
Punctuality and consistent preparedness.

Attendance - 25%
Attendance policy applies.

Assignments - 20%

Final Project - 30%

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Due to the intensive 9-day structure, attendance is mandatory. Each class represents a significant portion of instruction, and missing even one session may impact overall progress.

- Punctuality is required. Arriving late disrupts the learning environment and diminishes student progress.

- Arrivals 5 minutes or more after class begins will be marked as late (0.5 deduction).

- Arrivals 30 minutes or more after class begins will be considered an absence (0).

- Absences must be communicated to the instructor in advance whenever possible. Excused absences may be granted only in cases of illness or emergency, at the discretion of the instructor.

- Impact on Grades – Excessive lateness or absences will significantly lower the participation grade, which constitutes 30% of the final grade. More than two absences may place a student at risk of failing the course.

COURSE POLICIES:

It is required for students to attend all classes and come to class on time. Students should refrain from using cell phones while in class and eating during class times.

STUDENT CONDUCT:

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and responsible manner that contributes to a positive learning environment. This includes:

- Respect for Others – Listening attentively, not interrupting, and valuing diverse cultural perspectives in discussions.

- Classroom Etiquette – Refraining from disruptive behaviors such as side conversations, excessive phone use, or distracting activities.

- Preparedness and Participation – Bringing necessary materials, completing assignments, and actively engaging in class activities.

- Professionalism – Arriving on time, observing deadlines, and demonstrating commitment to the short yet intensive format of the course.

Failure to adhere to expected standards of conduct may affect participation grades and, in serious cases, may lead to disciplinary measures in accordance with university policies.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Class Day	Topic	Class Day	Topic
1	COURSE ORIENTATION / INTRODUCTION GENDERS, SEXUALITIES, AND BODIES IN MODERN JAPANESE SOCIETY	6	ENGENDERING SOCIAL CHANGE IN JAPAN Activity and discussion
2	Class Activity and Recap Conceptualising Gender Relations in Contemporary Japan FEMINIST THEORIES AND WOMEN'S STUDIES Class Activity	7	BEYOND THE HETERONORMATIVE: LGBTQ IN JAPAN Shinjuku Boys 1995 by Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams, 1995 We Are Transgender by Lulu Ogawa, 1998
3	STRUCTURES OF GENDER IN THE POSTWAR ERA Film viewing: Sansho the Bailiff Activity & Discussion	8	Field trip photowalk GENDERED `Otaku` WORLDS
4	HEGEMONIC AND ALTERNATIVE IDEALS OF MASCULINITY Sarariimen: Hegemonic Masculinity and the Dynamics of Gender Norm Compliance	9	ROBO-SEXISM AND JAPAN`s MODERNITY Activity and discussion Culminating Activity- Student Presentation
5	GENDER AND PERFORMANCE (1) GENDER AND PERFORMANCE (Idols and Celebrity Culture in Japan) Film viewing: Dream Girls. Directed by Kim Longinotto and Jano Williams. Color, 50 mins. 1994.		