Instructor: Haruko Wakabayashi
E-mail: h.wakabayashi@rutgers.edu
Office: Scott Hall Rm. 325
Office Hours: M (11:30-1:00)/T (10:30-12:00) or by appointment

Catalogue Description
Introduction to Japanese culture, past and present. Explores some of the major themes in Japanese culture across areas of art, religion, literature, and film. Themes include Shinto and Buddhism, warrior culture, monsters and the supernatural, and war and disaster.

Course Description
This course is a general introduction to some of the major themes in Japanese culture that span widely across many different areas including art, religion, literature, and film from the earliest times to the present. Themes include Shinto and Buddhism, classical tradition, warrior culture, monsters and the supernatural, foreign contacts, and war and disaster. We will investigate how each theme developed over time and how the themes have contributed to the forming of diverse and distinct culture of Japan through primary sources in translation and secondary sources that provide context. The diverse range of materials will introduce students to the different foundations for cultural knowledge and deepen their understanding and appreciation of Japanese society and culture.

Grading
Attendance and class participation (20%)
Weekly Responses (2% each; total 20%)
3 Short papers (5 pages) on topics discussed in class (20% each: total 60%)
Total: 100%
Grade Scale: A90-100; B+85-89; B80-84; C+75-79; C70-74; D60-69; F below 60.
Learning Goals and Assessment

Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals: “Majors will be able to analyze issues concerning East Asia and relate them to other areas in the humanities and social sciences following an interdisciplinary approach.”

Assessment of learning goals will be accomplished through the final short paper topic, which requires students to exhibit their mastery of interdisciplinary analysis of aspects of Japanese culture addressed in the course.

Self-Reporting Absence

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss one or two classes, 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.

Please note: Students are allowed a maximum of two excused absences without penalty. Make-up quizzes and paper due-date extensions are allowed by arrangement in advance only.

Honor Code

Students must abide by the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy. Violations include: cheating, inventing false data, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. If you submit someone else’s work as your own, you not only deprive yourself of the educational benefits of taking this course, which accrue from doing your own thinking, but, if caught, you will face disciplinary action. Review policy at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/

Accommodating Students with Disabilities

I am committed to accommodating all students with disabilities in my classroom. Students with disabilities who are requesting accommodation must follow the procedures outlined at https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form. Full statement of disability policies and procedures can be found at https://ods.rutgers.edu/

Required Readings

All required readings will be posted on Sakai course site.
Student-Wellness Services information (included here response to a request from RUSA (Rutgers University Student Assembly)

Just in Case Web App http://codu.co/cee05e Access helpful mental health information and resources for yourself or a friend in a mental health crisis on your smartphone or tablet and easily contact CAPS or RUPD.

Counseling, ADAP & Psychiatric Services (CAPS) (848) 932-7884 / 17 Senior Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901/ www.rhscaps.rutgers.edu/

CAPS is a University mental health support service that includes counseling, alcohol and other drug assistance, and psychiatric services staffed by a team of professional within Rutgers Health services to support students’ efforts to succeed at Rutgers University. CAPS offers a variety of services that include: individual therapy, group therapy and workshops, crisis intervention, referral to specialists in the community and consultation and collaboration with campus partners.

Violence Prevention & Victim Assistance (VPVA) 
(848) 932-1181 / 3 Bartlett Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 / www.vpva.rutgers.edu/
The Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance provides confidential crisis intervention, counseling and advocacy for victims of sexual and relationship violence and stalking to students, staff and faculty. To reach staff during office hours when the university is open or to reach an advocate after hours, call 848-932-1181.

Disability Services 
(848) 445-6800 / Lucy Stone Hall, Suite A145, Livingston Campus, 54 Joyce Kilmer Avenue, Piscataway, NJ 08854 / https://ods.rutgers.edu/
Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form.
Lecture and Reading Assignment Schedule

Sept. 7 (TH)   Introduction: What is “Japan” and Who are the “Japanese”?

UNIT I: “RELIGION” IN JAPANESE CULTURE

Sept. 11 (M) & 14 (Th)   INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE RELIGIONS/FESTIVAL OF THE DEAD
Lafcadio Hearn, “Worship and Purification” in Japan, an Attempt at Interpretation (New York: MacMillan, 1904; printed 1913), pp. 149-171
**Response #1 Due: 9/13 Midnight

Sept. 18 (M) & 21 (Th)   SPIRITED AWAY AND JAPANESE FOLK BELIEFS
Noriko Reider, “Spirited Away: Film of the Fantastic and Evolving Japanese Folk Symbols,” in Film Criticism, Vol. 29, No. 3 (Spring 205), pp. 4-27.
Film: Spirited Away (Japanese title: Sen to Chihiro no kamikasushi), dir. Miyazaki Hayao, 2001
**Response #2 Due: 9/22 Midnight

Sept. 25 (M) & 28 (Th)   AUM SHINRIKOYO AND ITS LEGACIES

**Response #3 Due: 9/27 Midnight**

Oct. 2 (M) & 5 (Th)  **CONFUCIANISM AND THE WAY OF THE SAMURAI**

**Response #4 Due 10/4 Midnight**

Oct. 9 (M) & 12 (Th)  **IMAGE OF CHINA AND THE FOREIGN "OTHERS" IN PREMODERN JAPAN**

**Response #5 Due 10/11 Midnight**

**Paper #1 Due 10/15 Midnight**

Oct. 16 (M)  **IMAGE OF THE WEST IN LATE 19TH-EARLY 20TH CENTURY JAPAN**

Oct. 19 (Th)  **ENVISIONING THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS IN COLONIAL JAPAN**
“The Adventures of Dankichi (1933-1939),” by Shimada Keizo--Popular Orientalism and Japanese

**Response #6 Due 10/18 Midnight**

Oct. 23 (M) & 26 (Th) VOICES FROM OKINAWA
Yamanokuchi Baku, “Mr. Saitō of Heaven Building,” in Molasky and Rabson, eds., Southern Exposure: Modern Japanese Literature from Okinawa (University of Hawaii Press, 2000), pp. 84-96

**Response #7 Due 10/25 Midnight**

UNIT III: WAR AND DISASTERS IN JAPANESE CULTURE

Oct. 30 (M) & Nov. 2 (Th) MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II
Ōoka Shōhei, Taken Captive, Chapter 1, and Ōta Yoko, “Fireflies,” in Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature, pp. 709-739; 739-755.
Film: A Grave of Fireflies (dir. Takahata Isao, 1988)

**Response #8 Due 11/3 Midnight**

Nov. 6 (M) & 9 (Th) LEGACIES OF THE WAR: YASUKUNI, TEXTBOOK, AND COMFORT WOMEN

**Response #9 Due 11/8 Midnight**
Nov. 13 (M) & 16 (Th)  GODZILLA ATTACKS!
Film: Gojira (dir. Honda Ishiro, 1954)
**Paper #2 Due 11/19 Midnight

Nov. 20 (M)  3.11: EARTHQUAKE, TSUNAMI, AND THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
Selected stories from Elmer Luke and David Karashima, eds. March was made of yarn: reflections on the Japanese earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown (Vintage, 2011).

THANKSGIVING BREAK

UNIT IV: JAPANESE FOOD CULTURE

Nov. 27(M)  WASHOKU, THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE CUISINE

Nov. 30 (Th)  THE “TEA CEREMONY”
**Response #10 Due 11/29 Midnight

Dec. 4 (M)  JAPANESE BENTO BOXES

Dec. 7 (Th) & 11 (M)  RAMEN, JAPAN’S MOST POPULAR FAST FOOD
**Paper #3 Due 12/15 Midnight