

**EAS/ANT 225**  
**Princeton University**  
**MW 2:30-3:20**  
**Fall 06-07**

**Professor: Amy Borovoy**  
**Office Hours: M 3:30-4:30**  
[aborovoy@princeton.edu](mailto:aborovoy@princeton.edu)  
**Jones Hall 201A**  
**(o) 8-2471**

**Preceptor:**  
**Sharon Yoon**  
[syoon@princeton.EDU](mailto:syoon@princeton.EDU)

## **EAS/ANT 225: JAPANESE SOCIETY AND CULTURE**

Japanese society and culture poses compelling questions to American observers. Despite Japan's status as a major industrial power in the world economy, its social institutions and cultural values are markedly different from American ones (though not as different from other Asian and European ones). We will examine topics of the corporation, schooling, youth culture, the maintenance of social order through law and policing, gender and the family, feminism, and popular culture and counter-culture. The course also looks at social tensions within Japan and the costs of maintaining cohesion and stability. Japan now faces a key juncture in its history: the need (and demand) to move beyond its intimate postwar relationship with the United States and to forge more international ties, particularly within Asia. How prepared is Japan to face that challenge?

### **Course Requirements**

1. Participation in precepts, lectures and class discussions
2. Midterm Exam, October 24 in class
3. Essay, 8-10 pages, due Tuesday, January 15, "Dean's Date" (due in preceptor's box by 5 p.m.)
4. Final Examination (to be scheduled)

Students are accountable for all material presented in readings, lectures, and films.

### **Evaluation**

Course grades will be based on midterm exam (25%), essay (25%), final examination (30%), and class participation (20%). Class participation includes participation in precept and lecture attendance.

### **Essay**

The essay should be based on course readings with some additional reading on the topic—a book or one or two articles. Suggested topics are posted on the EAS 225 courseinfo website. You may also define your own topic in consultation with your preceptor. Late policy: Late papers will be marked down one third of a grade each day (e.g. from B+ to B).

### **Readings**

A course reader is available at Pequod Copy in the U-Store. It is also on reserve at Gest Library. The following books are required and can be purchased at the Princeton

University Store. They are also on reserve at the East Asian Studies Library, Gest Library (Frist 3<sup>rd</sup> floor). Two copies of the reader are also on reserve at Gest.

- John Dower. 1986. War Without Mercy
- Anne Allison. 1994. Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club
- Gerald LeTendre. 2000. Learning to be Adolescent: Growing up in U.S. and Japanese Middle Schools
- Amy Borovoy. 2005. The Too-Good Wife: Alcohol, Codependency, and the Politics of Nurture in Postwar Japan
- Merry White. 2002. Perfectly Japanese: Making Families in an Era of Upheaval

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### Week 1

**9/17 M Introduction: Japan in American Eyes**

**9/19 W Race and Culture in Representations of Japan**

John Dower. War Without Mercy: chapters 1-3 (book)

Film (clip): *Know Your Enemy—Japan* (1945)

### Week 2

**9/24 M The American Occupation: Japan Re-made?**

John Dower, Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II (selections)

Carmen Johnson, Wave Rings in the Water: My Years with the Women of Postwar Japan (selections)

**9/26 W Postwar Cultural Ideologies: Reconciling Prewar Nationalism with Postwar Democracy**

Kokutai no Hongi, “Introduction,” “The Way of the Subjects”

Watsuji Tetsurô,\* The Family as Ethical System (excerpts from Climate and Culture)

Ruth Benedict, The Chrysanthemum and the Sword: pp. 1-7, pp. 145-156

Doi Takeo, Dependency in Human Relationships (excerpts from Anatomy of Dependence)

Maruyama Masao, “Theory and Psychology of Ultra-Nationalism,” pp. 8-11

\*Note: Japanese names appear with surname first

### Week 3

**10/1 M Japan’s Postwar Successes: Company and Society**

Thomas P. Rohlen, For Harmony and Strength: Japanese White-Collar Organization in Anthropological Perspective: chapter 2

Genda Yûji, A Nagging Sense of Insecurity, “Prologue,” “The Parasite Single Explanation”

“Japan’s Lost Generation,” Business Week, May 28, 2007

**10/3 W Industry, Labor, and Continuing Tensions**

Thomas P. Rohlen, “The Mazda Turnaround,” (focus on pp. 159-169)

Ronald Dore, *British Factory, Japanese Factory*, “The Enterprise as Community,”  
“Authroity, Function, and Status”

“The ‘Toyota Way’ is Translated for a New Generation of Foreign Managers,” New York Times, December 15, 2007

**Week 4**

**10/8 M Divisions of Labor: Women’s Work in the Japanese Economy**

Anne Allison, Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club: Part I pp. 33-56; Part II (entire); and “The Hostess Club and Corporate Masculinity,” pp. 198-204 (book)

“Japanese Companies Woo Women Back to Work,” Wall Street Journal, July 23, 2007

“Career Women Find a Blocked Path in Japan,” New York Times, August 6, 2007

**10/10 W The Housewife and Feminism in Japan**

Amy Borovoy, The Too-Good Wife: Preface, Introduction, Chapter 1, Chapter 3, Chapter 5

**Week 5**

**10/15 M Socialization and Social Control**

Thomas P. Rohlen, “Introduction to Symposium on Social Control and Early Socialization,” read pp. 5-31

Walter Ames, “Keeping Order in the Urban Context: The Kôban”

**10/ 17 W Community versus Individual in Japan**

Frank Upham, “Unplaced Persons and Movements for Place”

Amitai Etzioni, “A New Moral, Social, Public Order,” in The Spirit of Community:  
Rights, Responsibilities and the Communitarian Agenda

**Week 6**

**10/22 M Debating Japan’s Economic Future**

Edward Lincoln, “The Postwar Economic System”

Sheldon Garon, “Economic Expansion or Social Stability: That May be the Question”

Jathon Sapsford, “It’s Japan’s Paradox: Troubled Banks Buoy their Ailing Borrowers,”  
*Wall Street Journal*

James Brooke, “Japan’s Spending Habit Roils Plan to Sell Big Bank,” *New York Times*

**10/24 W MIDTERM EXAM**

**FALL BREAK**

## **Week 7**

### **11/5 M Education: Examinations and Japanese Pedagogy**

Thomas P. Rohlen, "Five High Schools"

Merry White, The Japanese Educational Challenge, "Japan's Moral 'Common Sense'," pp. 17-19, "Motivation and Mores," pp. 20-49.

### **11/7 W Adolescence in Japan**

Gerald LeTendre, Chapters 3-5 in Learning to be Adolescent (book) (please skim Ch. 2 to get basic profile of the American and Japanese middle schools LeTendre studied)

## **Week 8**

### **11/12 M Social Criticism Through Film: The Middle Class Family**

Anne Allison, "Transgressions of the Everyday: Stories of Mother-Son Incest in Japanese Popular Culture,"

Keiko McDonald, "Family, Education, and Postmodern Society: Yoshimitsu Morita's 'The Family Game'"

**Film: The Family Game, Morita Yoshimitsu, dir. (watch in class and evening)**

### **11/14 W The Included and the Excluded: Mainstreaming in Education and Mental Health**

Maggie Jones, "Shutting Themselves In," New York Times, January 15, 2006 (note: the first page is located before the Merry White article)

David K. Reynolds, "Japanese Models of Psychotherapy"

Margaret Lock, "Japanese Responses to Social Change—Making the Strange Familiar"

## **Week 9**

### **11/19 M Future Challenges: Demographic Disasters in Japan and the Re-shaping of Family**

Merry White, Chapters 5-6: "Life Choices for Women and Men," and "Twenty-First Century Blues," in *Perfectly Japanese* (book)

John Traphagan, The Practice of Concern, "Aging and Anomie in Rural Japan," pp. 29-43, 63-77

Sonni Efron, "Japan's Aging Society Creates 'Nursing Hell' for Many Women," Los Angeles Times

**11/21 W Film: Aging in Japan**

## **Week 10**

### **11/26 M Questions of Life and Death: Culture and Science**

William LaFleur, "Behind the Great Buddha," "Social Death, Social Birth" from *Liquid Life*

Tsipi Ivry, "The Back Stage of Prenatal Care: Japanese Ob-Gyns Negotiating Prenatal Diagnosis"

**11/28 W “Think Global, Fear Local: Japan’s International Profile”, Guest Lecture by Professor David Leheny (East Asian Studies)**

David Leheny, Think Global, Fear Local, chapters 3-4

**Week 11**

**12/3 M Outsiders in Japan: Views of Race, Homogeneity, and American Minorities**

George Hicks, “Japan’s Hidden Minorities,” “What it Means to be a Korean in Japan” from *Japan’s Hidden Apartheid*

Film (clip): Reggae Life, *Struggle and Success*

**12/5 W Gender, Counter-culture, and Youth Culture**

Film: Gaia Girls, Kim Longinotto (director)

**Week 12**

**12/10 M The New Social Fabric: Foreign Workers in Japan**

Joshua Hotaka Roth, Brokered Homelands, “Introduction” pp. 1-8, “On Line at Yasumi Motors”

**12/12 W War Memories/War Responsibility**

Togo Kazuhiko, “A Moratorium on Yasukuni Visits”

Nihonshi (translated excerpts from a Japanese junior high school history textbook)

Declaration from the Japanese Society for History Textbook Reform

**Essay Due by Tuesday January 15, “Dean’s Date,” in preceptor’s box by 5 p.m.**

**WINTER RECESS**