

# Sophia University – January Session 2025

January 8<sup>th</sup> – January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 \*January 8<sup>th</sup>: Orientation, \*January 13: No-class day

Date: August 27, 2024

Course Title	Contemporary Japanese Culture & Society
Course Code	SOZ202
Instructor	フルカワ ギャヴィン (コーディネーター) / FURUKAWA, Gavin (Coordinator) 国枝智樹/ KUNIEDA, Tomoki 西村恵子/ NISHIMURA, Keiko ガルブレイス, パトリック W./GALBRAITH, Patrick W.
Class Period	2 <sup>nd</sup> Period (10:55-12:35)
Course Format	In-Person
Language of Instruction	English
Course Description	<p>This course introduces students to a contemporary view of Japanese culture and society from the perspectives of pop culture, intercultural communications, media, business, and the environment.</p> <p>The course is taught by four instructors who will focus on the following subtopics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Japanese Popular Culture: Understanding contemporary Japanese society through the lens of Japanese music, television dramas, social media, and other cultural phenomena.</li><li>2. Japanese Corporate Culture and Media: Focus on corporate management and culture, media and cultural industry, and strategic communication in Japan.</li><li>3. Japanese Culture and Music: These modules focus on the cultural dynamics of Japanese music. The first half examines cultural imaginaries both local and global through the examples of enka and rap in Japan to learn about nationalism and cultural change. The second half moves on to idols, which are described in the two major modes of analysis in cultural studies: the cultural industry and culturalism.</li><li>4. Japanese Technological Popular Culture: This section of the course will familiarize students with the historical and socio-cultural context of technology in Japan, focusing particularly on the popular culture figures and the actual machinery of communicating humanoid robots.</li></ol> <p>Please enroll yourself on the Moodle page of this course to find further information about the course.</p>

Course Objectives	Students will gain an understanding of Japanese history, gender, popular culture, corporate culture, and popular media from various academic approaches.	
Expected work outside of class	<p>Students will be expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend lectures.</li> <li>• Actively participate in class discussions.</li> <li>• Write regular reaction papers.</li> </ul> <p>The length of time outside of class is approximately 1-2 hours maximum.</p>	
Course Materials	Links to course materials, online forum discussions, and readings will be available on Moodle.	
	Purchase of textbook: <b>not necessary</b>	
	e-book: <b>not applicable</b>	
Moodle	Moodle will be used to upload reading materials and to submit some assignments.	
Contact Instructor	•via Email: g-furukawa-8s6@sophia.ac.jp	
Evaluation (Attendance, Class participation, in-class assignments, final exam, quizzes, etc.)	出席状況 / Attendance	percentage (30) % Four absences is an automatic "Fail"
	リアクションペーパー / Reaction papers	percentage (45) % Daily reaction papers required
	最終レポート / Final Report (課題)	percentage (25) % There will be a final in-class essay exam
Other comments	-	
Class schedule	*January 8: Orientation	
	*January 13: No-class day	
	[DAY 1] 1/9(Thu)	Definition(s) of Japanese Popular Culture
	[DAY 2] 1/10(Fri)	Japanese Culture and Media Industry
	[DAY 3] 1/14(Tue)	National Cultural Imaginaries: Enka
	[DAY 4] 1/15(Wed)	Japanese Society in Anime
	[DAY 5] 1/16(Thu)	Culture, Technology, Japan, and Robots
	[DAY 6] 1/17(Fri)	Transnational Cultural Imaginaries: J-Rap
	[DAY 7] 1/20(Mon)	Pre-war Robots and Tezuka Osamu

	[DAY 8] 1/21(Tue) The Culture Industry: Idols
	[DAY 9] 1/22(Wed) Japanese Advertisement Culture
	[DAY 10] 1/23 (Thu) Cultural Studies: Idols
	[DAY 11] 1/24(Fri) Japanese Identity and Social Media
	[DAY 12] 1/27(Mon) Post-war Popular and Technological Robots
	[DAY 13] 1/28(Tue) Japanese PR and Public Diplomacy
	[DAY 14] 1/29(Wed) Final In-Class Essay Exam & Course Reflections

\*Course format, evaluation methods and class schedule may be subject to change.

	月曜日(Mon)	火曜日(Tue)	水曜日(Wed)	木曜日(Thu)	金曜日(Fri)
			8日	9日	10日
Period 2 10:55 ~ 12:35			Orientation	Furukawa ① Definition(s) of Japanese Popular Culture	Kunieda ① Japanese Culture and Media Industry
	13日	14日	15日	16日	17日
Period 2 10:55 ~ 12:35	No Class Day	Galbraith ① National Cultural Imaginations: Enka	Furukawa ② Japanese Society in Anime	Nishimura ① Culture, Technology, Japan, and Robots	Galbraith ② Transnational Cultural Imaginations: J-Rap
	20日	21日	22日	23日	24日
Period 2 10:55 ~ 12:35	Nishimura ② Pre-war Robots and Tezuka Osamu	Galbraith ③ The Culture Industry: Idols	Kunieda ② Japanese Advertisement Culture	Galbraith ④ Cultural Studies: Idols	Furukawa ③ Japanese Identity and Social Media
	27日	28日	29日		
Period 2 10:55 ~ 12:35	Nishimura ③ Post-war Popular and Technological Robots	Kunieda ③ Japanese PR and Public Diplomacy	Furukawa ④ Final In-Class Essay Exam & Course Reflections		