

## AN 355: JAPANESE CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Inst: Richard Bordner

Off.: Eiben Hall 122, M-F 9-12, R 9:30-12:30 or by app't

Ph: 739-4644 (wk), 942-3563 (hm)

**TEXT:** Hendry, Joy 1995 (1987). Understanding Japanese Society. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. London: Routledge.

Collins, Robert 1992. Japan-Think, Ameri-Think. NY: Penguin.

DeMente, Boye 1993. Behind the Japanese Bow. Chicago: NTC.

**Course Description:** This course is intended to provide an introduction to traditional and contemporary Japanese society from an anthropological perspective. We will examine both traditional social patterns and how patterns of change in modern Japan.

**Course Objectives:** 1) Broaden your knowledge of one of the world's most controversial societies;

2) Increase your awareness of the importance of examining past cultural history when interpreting contemporary societies;

3) Gain some understanding of how patterns of social ritual reinforce social relationships;

4) Show how culture defines social behavior-to enhance cultural sensitivity and decrease ethnocentric stereotyping.

**Grading:** 1) Exams: There will be 2 exams in the class for a total of 50% of the course grade. They both will be essay format and based on lectures, videos and readings. They will be take-home exams.

2) Research Paper. You will be required to complete a research paper on some aspect of Japanese culture. **YOU MUST CLEAR the topic with me first.** This paper will be from 8-12 pages (Times font, 10-12 pt, double-spaced), with a minimum of 3 sources other than the class materials (3 Internet sources count as 1 source). It will count for 30% of your course grade.

3) Reaction Papers: You will be given two topics to write reaction/analysis papers on (videos). The papers will be 2-4 pages in length and must address the questions posed. They will count for 10% of the course grade.

4) Participation/Attendance: Attendance and participation are mandatory (Feds demand it). Trite as it sounds, you must attend to acquire the lectures (which do not repeat the texts), and if you don't participate none of us will remain awake. **READING THE TEXTS INSTEAD OF BEING IN CLASS WILL NOT SAVE YOU. LIKEWISE, JUST TAKING NOTES BUT NOT READING THE TEXTS WILL NOT SAVE YOU.** Participation and attendance will count for 10% of the course grade.

Exams (2).....50%

Research Paper ..... 30%

Reaction Papers (2).....10%

Part/Attend..... 10%

A=90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= -60

- Aug. 31: Introduction  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 1, DeMente ch. 1-2
- Sept 2: Geography, **environment**  
7: Prehistory  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 2, Collins ch. 9  
9: Japanese social history  
14: Fractured history and non-radical **change**  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 3, Collins ch. 1, 5, 16  
16: Kinship  
21: Video  
Ass: Read Collins ch. 17  
23: Kinship and social relationships  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 4,  
28: **Social** ties and emotional bonds  
Ass: Read Collins ch. 2-4, 7, 12  
30: Changing male-female roles?  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 5
- Oct 5: Women in modern Japan  
7: Shifting values and individualism  
Ass: Read Collins ch. 8, 13, DeMente ch. 3  
12: Educational structure in Japan  
14: **Jukus** and exam hells  
19: What college is for? / Hand out Mid-Term EXAM  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 6  
21: Religion, belief and cults in Japan  
26: Shinto and traditional shamanistic practices / Mid-Term EXAM DUE  
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 7  
28: Buddhism in Japan
- Nov. 2: The "New Sects"  
4: Ritual and space in Japan  
Ass: Read **Collins** ch. 6, 11  
9: Traditional economics in Japan  
Ass: Read DeMente ch. 4  
11: **HOLIDAY**  
Ass: Read Collins ch. 14-15  
16: The changing organizational ethic  
18: The Post-1992 "International" Organization  
23: Impacts of "Multinationalism"  
Ass: Read Collins ch. 18-21, DeMente ch. 5-6  
25-26: **HOLIDAY**  
30: Japan [Inc.](#) as an American fear
- Dec. 2: Nationalism and the Fictive Past  
Ass: Read Collins ch. 22-24  
7: Conservatism, Nationalism and Change in Japan / **FINAL EXAM** Handed out  
9: Japan's Future / Research Papers Due  
15: **FINAL EXAM DUE** 12:45-2:45