

AN 357: JAPANESE and CHINESE SOCIETIES

Inst: Richard Bordner

Off. Eiben Hall 122, M, W and F 9-12 or by app't.

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TEXT: Hendry, Joy 1995 (1987). Understanding Japanese Society. 2nd ed. London: Routledge.

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

Yang, Mayfair 1994. Gifts, Favors & Banquets. Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press.

Course Description: This course is intended to provide an introduction to **traditional** and **contemporary** Japanese and Chinese societies from an anthropological perspective. We will examine both traditional social **pattern**, continuity and patterns of change in these societies.

Course Objectives: 1) Broaden your knowledge of one of the **world's** most **dynamic** regions and two of the major forces in the modern world;

- 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.
- 5) To provide some understanding about the world's single largest population group (at over 1/5 of the world's population).

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 or Chinese 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%/u

A=90-100

B= 80-89

C= 70-79

D= 60-69

F= -60

- Aug. 29: Introduction
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 1, DeMente ch. 1-2
- 31: Geography, environment of East Asia
- Sept 5: Prehistory of East Asia
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 2
7: Japanese social history, the social logic of change
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 3
12: **Kinship** and family in Japanese society
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 4, DeMente ch. 3
14: Kinship, **social** ties and **social** bonds in Japanese society
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 5
19: Traditional gender roles and change
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 5
21: Shifting values and individualism
Ass: **Read** Hendry ch. 6-7, DeMente ch. 4
26: Educational **structures**, jukus and **exam** hells in Japan
28: Relationships between education and the world of work in Japan
- Oct 3: **Religion**, Shinto beliefs and cults in Japan
5: Traditional **Buddhism** and the "New Sects" in Japan
Ass: Read DeMente ch. 5-6
10: Traditional economics and the changing organizational ethic
12: The impacts of "**Multinationalism**"
17: Conservatism, Nationalism and Change in Japan / Mid-Term EXAM Handed out
19: The **various** Chinas through history, the Han and recent Chinese history
Ass: Read Yang ch. Intro., ch. 4, 6-7
24: The family in traditional Chinese society / Mid-Term EXAM DUE
Ass: Read Yang ch. 1, 3
26: The power of family and the group in traditional and **contemporary** Chinese society
31: The group and the individual-changing roles and responsibilities
Ass: Read Yang ch. 2
- Nov. 2: Social relationships and networks-the application of *guanxi*
7: The Emperor and family-rectification of name and **modern** versions
9: Maoist and post-Maoist politics
14: Religion and belief in China
16: Confucianism and the state, Buddhism and the people
21: "**Maoism**"—the religion of politics and folk beliefs
23-4: Holiday
28: Chinese **healing**, feng shui **geomancy** and **fortune-telling** (ming shui)
30: Changes in contemporary Chinese societies Hong Kong, the PRC and Taiwan
- Dec. 5: The future in East Asia-world view and identity in China and Japan / Final **Exam** handed out
7: **Summary** / **RESEARCH** PAPER DUE
13: Final EXAM, 12:45