

AN 357: JAPANESE and CHINESE SOCIETIES

Inst: Richard Bordner

Off: Upper (*mauka*) Portables #114, M & F 10-11, TR 10-12 or by app't.

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

Anon. 2001 (1994). Japanese Family & Culture. 2nd ed. Tokyo: JTB 2000.

Salzman, Mark. 1986. Iron & Silk. NY: Random House.

Ingram, Shirley & Rebecca Ng. 1995 (1983). Cantonese Culture. Hong Kong: Asia 2000 Ltd.

Winbridge, Charles & Cheng Kam Fong. 2000. Tong Sing. NY: Three Rivers 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) and the tremendous cultural diversity in this region.

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. You can substitute appropriate Service Learning projects for this requirement—currently the Project Shine elderly immigrant tutoring (if conducted in Chinatown) would be acceptable. With the Service Learning option you must complete a daily journal of your experiences and a final summation of the experience, how it relates to what you've learned in this class and its impact on you.
- 3) Reaction Papers: You will be given a minimum of 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%
 Res. Paper/Serv. Learning.....30%
 Reaction Papers (2).....10%
 Part/Attend.....10%

A=90-100
 B= 80-89
 C= 70-79

D= 60-69
 F= -60

- Aug. 27: Introduction
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 1, JFC ch. 1, 5
29: Geography, environment of East Asia
- Sept. 3: Prehistory of East Asia
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 2
5: Japanese social history, the social logic of change
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 3, JFC ch. 2, 4
10: Kinship and family in Japanese society
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 4
12: Kinship, social ties and social bonds in Japanese society
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 5
17: Traditional gender roles and change
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 5
19: Shifting values and individualism
Ass: Read Hendry ch. 6-7
24: Educational structures, jukus and exam hells in Japan
Ass: Read JFC ch. 6
26: Relationships between education and the world of work in Japan
Ass: Read JFC ch. 3
- Oct. 1: Religion, Shinto beliefs and cults in Japan
3: Traditional Buddhism and the "New Sects" in Japan
8: Traditional economics and the changing organizational ethic
10: The impacts of "Multinationalism"
15: Conservatism, Nationalism and Change in Japan / **Mid-Term EXAM Handed out**
Ass: Read Salzman all (by 10/30)
17: The various Chinas through history, the Han and recent Chinese history
Ass: Read Tong Sing pg. 7-56
22: The family in traditional Chinese society / **Mid-Term EXAM DUE**
Ass: Read Tong Sing pg. 256-281, Ingram 1st section
24: The power of family and the group in traditional and contemporary Chinese society
Ass: Read Salzman all (read as a unit or in large blocks)
29: The group and the individual—changing roles and responsibilities
Ass: Read Tong Sing pg. 57-95
31: Social relationships and networks—the application of *guanxi*
Ass: Read Ingram 2nd section
- Nov. 5: The Emperor and family—rectification of name and modern versions
7: Maoist and post-Maoist politics
Ass: Read Tong Sing pg. 104-198
12: Religion and belief in China
14: Confucianism and the state, Buddhism and the people
Ass: Read Ingram 3rd section
19: "Maoism"—the religion of politics and folk beliefs
21: Chinese healing, feng shui geomancy and fortune-telling (ming shui)
26: Changes in contemporary Chinese societies—Hong Kong, the PRC and Taiwan
28-29: Holiday
- Dec. 3: The future in East Asia—world view and identity in China and Japan / Final Exam handed out
5: Summary / **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
10: **FINAL EXAM DUE 12:45-2:45**