

PAAS 181: Modern Japanese Culture

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Course description:

Join us and dive into the intriguing world of modern Japanese culture! We will uncover how culture has functioned a crucial vehicle for social commentary in Japan throughout the 20th century and today. In this course, we will cover a wide range of engaging topics, including nationalism, colonialism, wartime memories, industrial and nuclear disasters, gender and racial politics, family relations, and the impact of technological advancements. If you're eager to expand your horizons and embark on an eye-opening exploration of Japanese culture, this course is tailor-made for you. Don't miss out on the chance to gain new perspectives and participate in meaningful discussions about culture and society.

Proposed assignments:

- Regular class attendance and discussion participation (20%)
- Film review essay (15%)
- Group video essay project (35%): outline (5%), video essay (25%), and Q&A (10%)
- Exams (30%): midterm & final, each exam 15%

Proposed reading list:

- Frühstück, Sabine. *Uneasy Warriors: Gender, Memory, and Popular Culture in the Japanese Army*. Berkeley, Ca: University of California Press, 2007.
- Robertson, Jennifer. *Robo Sapiens Japonicus: Robots, Gender, Family, and the Japanese Nation*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2017.
- Kinsella, Sharon. *Adult Manga: Culture and Power in Contemporary Japanese Society*. London: Routledge, 2013.