## Contemporary Japanese Culture

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<tr>
<th>CREDIT</th>
<th>INSTRUCTOR</th>
<th>Janice S Kanemitsu</th>
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<td>OFFICE</td>
<td>OFFICE HOURS</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>CLASSROOM LOCATION</td>
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* Please leave the fields blank which haven’t been decided yet.

### [COURSE INFORMATION]

| COURSE DESCRIPTION & GOALS | This course looks at a different aspect of contemporary Japanese culture in each of the six weeks: culinary culture; education; changing employment patterns; attitudes toward “asobi” (play) and “kawaii” (cute) as well as cute culture; and the constructed nature and pervasive reach of Japan’s entertainment industry and star system. We will also be looking at related cultural aspects of each main topic. For example, our examination of kogyaru (young girls) will include street fashion and conspicuous consumption, whereas the topic of otaku (geeks) will also cover Japan’s internet communities and media representations of the otaku. Each class meeting will consist of a short lecture, small-group discussion or other form of active learning, and the screening of media related to the topic of the day. |
| PREREQUISITE | None, although a prior course on Japanese culture or history is highly recommended. |
| COURSE REQUIREMENTS | Complete weekly readings and come to class each day prepared for active participation. Regarding the course materials, students will be required to order a course reader from the copy center. Please order the course reader as soon as you can; it is printed on an on-demand basis. |
| GRADING POLICY | Academic performance will be assessed on weekly responses (Monday), short weekly quizzes (Thursday), and a final examination. |

### TEXTS & REFERENCES

## Course Syllabus

**2015 YONSEI INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL**

Charlebois, Justin. “Herbivore Masculinity as an Oppositional Form of Masculinity.” *Culture, Society, and Masculinity* 5.1 (Spring 2010): 89-104.  

### INSTRUCTOR’S PROFILE

Janice Kanemitsu received both her M.A. (Asian Studies, emphasis: Japan) and Ph.D. (Japanese Literature and Culture) from the University of California, Berkeley. Her research interests broadly encompass literature and theater in Japan’s early modern period (1603-1868), centering on the generic boundaries of historical narratives and period plays, the intersection of print and performance as a site of literary and cultural transmission, and representation of gender, exaggerated and reversed. At Cornell University, she teaches courses on Japanese literature and culture, theater and performance, and contemporary popular Japanese culture.

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## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

* Your detailed explanation would be very helpful for prospective students to get a pre-approval for credit-transfer from their home university in advance.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEK (PERIOD)</th>
<th>WEEKLY TOPIC &amp; CONTENTS</th>
<th>COURSE MATERIAL &amp; ASSIGNMENTS</th>
<th>REFERENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2             | School                   | Rohlen, Thomas. “Five High Schools.” 11-44.  
| 3             | NEETs, Parasite Singles, and Freeters | Brinton, Mary C. *Lost in Transition*. 1-33 and 63-97.  
Genda Yūji. “Don’t Blame the Unmarried Breed.” 54-56. |
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