

# Searching for Reciprocity in Japan

**IDH 4007/ Spring 2023**  
**Honors College/ Hybrid Course**

Instructor: Masako Kubota

Office Hours: by appointment only by Canvas Inbox

## **COURSE TEXTBOOKS**

- Brown, Azby. *Just Enough: Lessons in Living Green from Traditional Japan*. Tokyo, Tuttle Publishing, 2012.
- Chiri, Yukie. *The Song the Owl God Sang: The Collected Ainu Legends of Chiri Yukie*. Trans. Benjamin Peterson. Middletown, BJS Books, 2015.
- Boye Lafayette De Mente, Revised by Geoff Botting. *Etiquette Guide to Japan: Know the rules that make the difference*. Tokyo|Rutland|Vermont|Singapore, Tuttle Publishing, ISBN 978-4-8053-1361-9

## **HISTORICAL AND CRITICAL REFERENCES**

- Nishiyama, Matsunosuke. *Edo Culture: Daily Life and Diversion in Urban Japan, 1600-1868*. Honolulu, University of Hawai'i Press, 1997.
- Cahn, Edgar S. *No More Throw-Away People: The Co-Production Imperative*. Washington, DC, Essential Books, 2014.
- Honda, Katsuichi. *Harukor: An Ainu Woman's Tale*. Trans. Kyoko Selden. Berkeley, University of California Press, 2000.

Additional readings will be provided by instructor on Canvas, Module.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

This course will examine what it is like to live in a sustainable society. We will observe Edo's (1603 – 1867) ecological lifestyle when traditional technology and culture were at their peak of development just before Japan opened to the West. We will learn how the Edo society overcame many problems such as issues of energy, water, materials, food and population, and how they shaped a conservation-minded, waste-free, and economically strong society. Then we will discuss the spiritual interaction between nature and the Ainu people, who lived a reciprocal

lifestyle with nature and animals. A multi-perspective approach will be used to discuss and analyze the development of the reciprocal society.

## **COURSE GOALS**

This course offers students inimitable experience to learn and share “RECIPROCITY” by visiting six distinguished cities. The focus of the program would be sharing our culture with people in Japan. In each place, carefully designed activities will motivate students to engage in the concept of our trip. In the spring class, we will research Seminole tribe history and culture to share with Ainu people, and research Miami Linguistic Landscape to compare with Tokyo Landscape with Waseda students. Besides this research, class covers “Living Green from Traditional Japan,” by reading and discussing Azby Brown’s *Just Enough*.

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this trip, students will be able to:

- **Interpret** the concepts of Japanese customs, manners and basic greetings at the places visiting in Japan.
- **Analyze** the reciprocity in Edo and Ainu culture.
- **Evaluate** contemporary issues of Japanese ecological system.
- **Design** and apply ideologies of the reciprocal act in the cities we will visit.
- **Compose** original projects of the reciprocity that could exchange with the host organizations.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The class format will include reading assignments, weekly study questions, current event papers, film viewing, and group discussions in the class and on the Discussions. There will be a heavy emphasis on discussions, so students must be prepared for assigned subjects. The discussions are meant to take the textbook materials to a more critical levels, imploring students to generate their own questions to be analyzed during the classes. Each student is expected to complete the mid-term project, one-page current event papers, assigned discussions, film reflection papers, and the final group project. The instructor will take off points if the above assignments are not adhered to.

## **DESCRIPTION OF CLASS ASSIGNMENT**

### **I. QUIZZES**

Quizzes will cover previous week(s) materials and Weekly Study Questions. It will be available from 12:00AM – 11:59PM on the assigned date. Quiz due date are listed below.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Description/ Friday</b>
Week 1	Syllabus quiz: Due 01/13 by 11:59PM
Week 3	Quiz 1: Due 01/27 by 11:59PM
Week 4	Quiz 2: Due 02/03 by 11:59PM

Week 5	Quiz 3: Due 02/10 by 11:59PM
Week 6	Quiz 4: Due 02/17 by 11:59PM
Week 7	Quiz 5: Due 02/24 by 11:59PM
Week 9	Quiz 6: Due 03/10 by 11:59PM
Week 11	Quiz 7: Due 03/24 by 11:59PM
Week 12	Quiz 8: Due 03/31 by 11:59PM

### **II. CURRENT EVENT PAPERS**

This assignment is meant to keep students up to date with current news events regarding Japanese culture and society, including Ainu culture and society. This assignment will help increase students' awareness of the impact that Japan has on the rest of the world today, as well as the globalization of diverse aspects of Japanese society. Students collect and comment on a current news article (less than 3-month-old) that relates to a contemporary issue relating to Japanese society. Recommended news sources are available on module. Five Current Event Papers are to be submitted by Assignments.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Paper Description/ Wednesday</b>
Week 3	Current Event Paper 1: Due 01/25 by 11:59PM
Week 5	Current Event Paper 2: Due 02/08 by 11:59PM
Week 7	Current Event Paper 3: Due 02/22 by 11:59PM
Week 9	Current Event Paper 4: Due 03/08 by 11:59PM
Week 11	Current Event Paper 5: Due 03/22 by 11:59PM

### **III. FILM REFLECTION PAPERS**

There will be six one-page reflection papers. The students will submit them by Assignments. Check the sample format carefully and follow it when you write a paper. Late submission is accepted until 3 weeks past the due date. There will be 3 points deducted per week.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Paper Description /Wednesday</b>	<b>Topics</b>
Week 2	Film Paper 1: Due 01/18 by 11:59PM	NHK Japanology/ Shinto Shrine
Week 4	Film Paper 2: Due 02/01 by 11:59PM	NHK Japanology/ Kimono
Week 6	Film Paper 3: Due 02/15 by 11:59PM	NHK Japanology/ Kabuki
Week 10	Film Paper4: Due 03/15 by 11:59PM	Choose one film that is posted and write the reflection paper.
Week 12	Film Paper 5: Due 03/29 by 11:59PM	Ainumosisir: Ainu Pride

### **IV. DISCUSSIONS**

After reading assigned chapters, students examine and discuss the assigned questions on the Discussions. This will be graded.

1. The approximate length of a response should be at least 100-150 words.
2. Students are expected to post at least three times on each Discussion. First post is the answer, and the other two posts should be the comment to your peers.
3. Forums are available one week and due date is stated ahead.
4. The grading rubric/ criteria can be found in the course's Discussion Board.

5. Late submission will have points deducted.
6. Forums will be graded within a week from the due date.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Paper Description (Mondays)</b>
Week 3	Discussion 1: Due 1/23 by 11:59PM
Week 4	Discussion 2: Due 1/30 by 11:59PM
Week 5	Discussion 3: Due 2/06 by 11:59PM
Week 6	Discussion 4: Due 2/13 by 11:59PM
Week 9	Discussion 5: Due 3/06 by 11:59PM
Week 11	Discussion 6: Due 3/20 by 11:59PM
Week 12	Discussion 7: Due 3/27 by 11:59PM

### **V. MID-TERM PAPER**

The midterm paper will be a 6–8-page analytical paper on sustainable community that we have encountered up to this point. The paper provides you with the opportunity to take a deeper look at the text(s) or film(s) discussed in previous classes. Be sure your topic is neither too broad nor too technical. You are writing 6-8 pages, well-focused, analytical paper. **Submit to Assignments by 02/24, 11:59PM.**

### **VI. FINAL GROUP PROJECT**

Form a group and design contemporary issues of the sustainable society by making suggested plans of action. These plans will lead to the project of Study Abroad in Japan in 2023, summer semester.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Progress</b>

Week 12	03/27 – 04/02	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Choose research theme.</li> <li>2. Instructor will announce 4 different groups</li> </ol>
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Form 4 Project Groups:</li> <li>2. Find the appropriate sources for your research paper.</li> </ol> <p><b>Examine the <a href="#">Library Guide</a>.</b></p>

Week 13	04/03 – 04/09	Find effective pictures, at least 10, and contribute them directly on the PowerPoint presentation, and Final paper.
Week 14	04/10 – 04/16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. As a group, write an introduction and background.</li> <li>2. Start writing group paper.</li> </ol>
Week 15	04/17 – 04/23	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>04/21:</b> PowerPoint presentation on the research subject.</li> <li>2. During this week, students can keep editing to create an effective paper, and will finalize the drafts into the final paper.</li> </ol>
Week 16	04/25 – 04/ 29	1. <b>Finalize the Group paper. Due date is 04/26, 11:59PM.</b>

### **COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION**

Attendance and Class participation/ Weekly Quizzes (8) are included in this distribution	15%
Current Event Journals (5)	15%
Film Reflection Papers (5)	15%
Discussion Forum (7)	15%

Mid-term Paper (1)	20%
Final Group Project (1)	20%
Total Grade	100%

### **GRADING SCALE**

A	95 or above	A-	90-94		
B+	87 - 89	B	83 - 86	B-	80-82
C+	77 - 79	C	70 - 76	D	60 – 69