

Education in Japanese Society (2 credit hours)¹

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

Center Zone 1 - Room 1308, Thursdays 10:30 – 12:00

*There are always four sides to a story: your side, their side, the truth, and what really happened.
(Jean-Jacques Rousseau)*

Instructor: Chisato Nonaka, Ph.D.
Contact information: nonaka.chisato.444@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp
Office location: D-402, West Zone 1 (Ito Campus)
Office phone: 092-802-4380
Office hours: By appointment (but feel free to stop by also if you're in the neighborhood ☺)

I. Course Description

This course begins with an overview of the p-20 (preschool to university) education system in Japan. Subsequently, we will explore interrelated historical, philosophical, and socio-cultural issues in Japanese education contexts and beyond.

II. Learning Objectives

To **understand, identify, and/or challenge contemporary issues, problems, and applications of Japanese education as well as those of the society at large**. By engaging with the assigned readings, class discussions, reflections, and other related activities, you are encouraged to constantly think about how you (as a student, current/future educator, and a member of society) would like to respond to such issues, problems, and applications on a personal, professional, as well as societal level.

III. Required Texts and Readings

All required course readings will be provided as hardcopies during class.

IV. Course Assignments, Assessment, and Grading

a. Assignments

- 1) **THREE Writing assignments²** (Due: **Thursday, October 11th**; **Thursday, November 29th**; and **Thursday, January 24th**)
- 2) **Group presentation²** (Week 12 or 13)
- 3) **Self-evaluation²** (Due: **Thursday, January 31st**)

¹ Or, consult with the instructor about enrolling in 3 credit hours of work.

² Specific guidelines, rubrics, and/or checklists will be provided on separate sheets.



b. Assessment and Assignment Details

1) **Participation/attendance – 60 points** (4 points/session x 15 class sessions)

You are expected to **come prepared** (e.g. completing the required readings/assignments as instructed) and **on time** for each class session. If, for unforeseen reasons, you are unable to arrive on time for or attend a class session, please let the instructor know as early as possible. Also, you are expected to be **respectful, attentive, and engaged** during class and complete in-class assignments/activities as instructed.

2) **Writing assignments – 30 points** (Due: Thursday, October 11th; Thursday, November 29th; and Thursday, January 24th)

There will be THREE writing assignments for this course:

1. Autoethnography (10 points) – **Due: Thursday, October 11th**
2. Reflection paper (10 points) – **Due: Thursday, November 29th**
3. Proposal (10 points) – **Due: Thursday, January 24th**

3) **Group presentation – 5 points** (Week 12 or 13)

You will choose one of the topics covered during the semester and as a group, you will prepare a presentation. **In Week 12 or 13**, you will give a group presentation which will also serve as an opportunity for the class to review and reflect what we have learned about the particular topic during the semester. Your group presentation must include:

1. **Introduction** (e.g. clearly state your topic, its background, why you/your group chose the particular topic over others?)
2. **Body** (e.g. what are some of the deeper issues behind the topic?, how do such issues relate to us *personally and professionally*?)
3. **Conclusion** (e.g. summary and suggestions on how these issues may be addressed/approached and how will you as future educators respond to such issues?)

4) **Self-evaluation – 5 points** (Due: Thursday, January 31st)

You will be asked to write and submit a brief self-evaluation (≈ 300 words³) at the end of the semester. This is for the instructor to better understand the progress and effort you have made over the semester, so please be specific, clear, and honest in your writing.

NOTE: Late assignments will result in a reduced grade (0.5 point deducted per day) !!!

c. Grading

You will receive a letter grade (A-F) based on the following percentages (= points explained above):

A:	90-100%	(90 – 100 points)
B:	80-89%	(80 – 89 points)
C:	70-79%	(70 – 79 points)
D:	60-69%	(60 – 69 points)
F:	59% or lower	(0 – 59 points)

³ Approximately **one** A4 size paper with 1-inch (=2.54cm) margin, double-spaced, 12 point font.

V. Calendar

	Topic	Readings and Assignments (Must be completed before class)
<u>Week 1</u> Thursday, October 4th	Course introduction and community building	
<u>Week 2</u> Thursday, October 11th	Situating yourself in the community: who are you?; what do you hope to gain from this course?; and how can we support each other?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Autoethnography DUE</u> (see the guidelines) 2. Bring a hardcopy of Autoethnography to class Also, bring a list of questions (if any) about the course syllabus.
<u>Week 3</u> Thursday, October 18th	Overview of Japanese education system (1)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Read the assigned article (Week 3)</u>, take notes as necessary 3. Bring your notes to class
<u>Week 4</u> Thursday, October 25th	Overview of Japanese education system (2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Watch the assigned video (Week 4)</u>, take notes as necessary 3. Bring your notes to class
<u>Week 5</u> Thursday, November 1st	Moral education in Japan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Read the assigned article (Week 5)</u>, take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class

	Topic	Readings and Assignments (Must be completed before class)
<u>Week 6</u> Thursday, November 8th	Gender and sexuality in Japanese education	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Read the assigned article (Week 6)</u> , take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 7</u> Thursday, November 15th	Poverty and education in Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Read the assigned article (Week 7)</u> , take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 8</u> Thursday, November 29th	Education and social mobility in Japan	1. <u>Reflection paper DUE</u> (see the guidelines) 2. Bring a hardcopy of the reflection paper to class
<u>Week 9</u> Thursday, December 6th	Educational policies in Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Read the assigned article (Week 9)</u> , take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 10</u> Thursday, December 13th	The future of education in Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. <u>Read the assigned article (Week 10)</u> , take notes/highlight text as necessary

	Topic	Readings and Assignments (Must be completed before class)
		3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 11</u> Thursday, December 20th	Review and prepare for the group presentation	1. Review all the videos/articles (<u>Weeks 3-10</u>) and notes 2. Bring a list of wonderings/questions
<u>Week 12</u> Thursday, January 10th	Group presentation #1	1. Prepare for your group presentation
<u>Week 13</u> Thursday, January 17th	Group presentation #2	1. Prepare for your group presentation
<u>Week 14</u> Thursday, January 24th	Wrap-up	1. <u>Proposal DUE</u> (see the guidelines) 2. Bring a hardcopy of the proposal to class
<u>Week 15</u> Thursday, January 31st <i>Happy Spring!</i>	Self-evaluation and reflection	1. <u>Self-evaluation DUE</u> (see the guidelines) 2. Email or submit a hardcopy of the self-evaluation



VI. Policies and Resources

a. Attendance and Participation

You are expected to **be prepared and on time** for each session. Please be attentive, responsive, and engaged during class and be sure to complete in-class assignments and homework as instructed.

b. Use of Electronic Devices

When using a laptop computer/tablet in class, you are expected to practice/model courtesy and respect for your peers and the instructor. **Use technology only when appropriate and instructed.**⁴

c. Academic Integrity and Ethical Behavior

When using work that is not yours, include proper documentation and crediting of sources. Failure to properly introduce and document paraphrased material or borrowed ideas is **plagiarism**. **Plagiarism carries serious consequences** and possible dismissal from the class.

d. Other Support

The Counseling and Health Center helps to promote the safe and healthy environment for everyone. For more information, please visit their website at:

<http://www.chc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/english/type/student.html>

Also, you may want to ask your peer(s) and/or tutor for help as necessary. Refer to the **guidebook** for general information:

<http://www.isc.kyushu-u.ac.jp/intlweb/cmn/data/pdf/livingguide.pdf>

By all means, I am available to assist you in any way I can – *please feel free to contact me!*

Please feel free to ask questions and let's have a great semester 😊

⁴ Please also think about what we (as a community of learners) can do to help each other ***stay focused*** when some of us are using our electronic devices out of necessity.