

Self and Identity in Contemporary Japan

(2 credit hours)¹

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

Center Zone 1 - Room 1209, Tuesdays 13:00 – 14:30

There is no gender identity behind the expressions of gender;...identity is performatively constituted by the very 'expressions' that are said to be its results.
(Judith Butler)

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I. Course Description

This course explores the range of identities that are thought to be “traditional” or “fixed” yet are perhaps “unsettling,” “evolving,” and “fluid” in today’s Japan. We begin with an overview of foundational identity theories, then will look at specific cases such as *hafu* [mixed heritage, part-Japanese], gender/sexuality, metroethnicity, immigration, and more.

II. Learning Objectives

To **understand and/or challenge issues and debates around the topic of identity in contemporary Japan**. By engaging with the assigned readings, class discussions, reflections, and other related activities, you are encouraged to draw personal and meaningful connections to your own experience (both past and future) and constantly think about how you as a member of society can best address the existing issues and ongoing debates.

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 assignments**² (Due: **Tuesday, October 16th**; **Tuesday, November 27th**; and **Tuesday, January 29th**)
- 2) **Group presentation**² (Week 12 or 13)
- 3) **Self-evaluation**² (Due: **Tuesday, February 5th**)

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: **Tuesday, October 16th**; **Tuesday, November 27th**; and **Tuesday, January 29th**)

There will be **THREE** writing assignments for this course:

1. Autoethnography (10 points) – **Due: Tuesday, October 16th**
2. Reflection paper (10 points) – **Due: Tuesday, November 27th**
3. Mini research paper (10 points) – **Due: Tuesday, January 29th**

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: **Tuesday, February 5th**)

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> Tuesday, October 2nd	Course introduction and community building	
<u>Week 2</u> Tuesday, October 16th	Introduction to identity studies: <i>Who am I?</i> <i>Who are you?</i> <i>And how do we relate to each other?</i>	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> Tuesday, October 23rd	Foundational identity theories (1)	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> Tuesday, October 30th	Foundational identity theories (2)	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> Tuesday, November 6th	What is “Japaneseness” or “non-Japaneseness”? (e.g. “hafu”)	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> Tuesday, November 13th	Gender and sexual identities in today's Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. Read the assigned article (<u>Week 6</u>) , take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 7</u> Tuesday, November 20th	Language teachers and their identities in Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. Read the assigned article (<u>Week 7</u>) , take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 8</u> Tuesday, November 27th	Immigration and identity in Japan	1. Reflection paper <u>DUE</u> (see the guidelines) 2. Bring a hardcopy of the reflection paper to class
<u>Week 9</u> Tuesday, December 4th	Metroethnicity in Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. Read the assigned article (<u>Week 9</u>) , take notes/highlight text as necessary 3. Bring your notes/highlighted text to class
<u>Week 10</u> Tuesday, December 11th	Death and identity in Japan	1. Carefully read the guiding questions 2. Read the assigned article (<u>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> Tuesday, December 18th	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> Tuesday, January 8th	Group presentation #1	1. Prepare for your group presentation
<u>Week 13</u> Tuesday, January 22nd	Group presentation #2	1. Prepare for your group presentation
<u>Week 14</u> Tuesday, January 29th	Wrap-up	1. <u>Mini research paper DUE</u> (see the guidelines) 2. Bring a hardcopy of the paper to class
<u>Week 15</u> Tuesday, February 5th <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.