



Course Syllabus

JAPAN & GLOBALIZATION

A SOCIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

I. COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Name:	Japan & Globalization: A Sociological Overview
Semester & Year:	Fall-Winter, 2018-19
Credits Earned:	2 Credit Hours*
Prerequisite:	None (open for all students at Kyushu University)
Class Meeting Place:	Room 1209, Center Zone 1 (Ito Campus)
Class Meeting Time:	Thursday, 1:00—2:30 PM (Period 3)

Notes: Only JTW students (those enrolled in the Japan in Today's World program) may ask for a special arrangement to work toward earning 3 credit hours if permitted by the instructor and if agreeing to complete additional work. Ask the instructor for more details.

II. INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor Name:	Dr. Masa HIGO, Professor, International Student Center
Office Location:	Room D-402, West Zone 1 (Ito Campus)
Office Hours:	By appointment
Office Phone:	092-802-4380
E-mail:	higo.masateru.644@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp

III. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an introductory-level course on the sociology of globalization with special focus on the interplay between Japan and globalization. An overarching goal of this course is to introduce, primarily from a sociological perspective, contemporary Japan in the context of modern globalization, which characterizes the world economy, culture, politics, and environment today.

In this course, students will first learn a variety of basic sociological approaches (e.g., concepts, theories, perspectives, etc.) to understand the meanings, historical stages, and various dimensions of globalization. This course then helps students apply these approaches to examine the ways in which Japan has contributed to facilitating, and how it has been affected by, modern globalization. Specific topics include the interplay between Japan and economic inequalities, popular culture, environmental changes, technological advancement, health, and security at a global scale.

IV. LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following three sets of learning objectives:

(1) BE FAMILIAR WITH basic knowledge of the literature of the sociology of globalization:

Students will be familiar with:

- Some foundational concepts, constructs, and theories widely used in the literature of sociology of globalization; and

- ☞ Some major perspectives and arguments on various meanings, stages, and dimensions of globalization from a sociological perspective.

(2) UNDERSTAND contemporary Japanese society and culture from a perspective of sociology of globalization.

Students will gain basic understanding of:

- ☞ The ways in which some dimensions of modern globalization have affected Japanese society and culture; and
- ☞ What roles Japan as a country has played in contributing to the growth of modern globalization today and over the past few decades.

(3) ANALYZE uniqueness of Japanese society and culture in today's world from a perspective of sociology of globalization:

Students will be able to analyze:

- ☞ In what ways Japanese society and culture are unique, compared to some other countries around the world, in the experience of being part of modern globalization; and/or
- ☞ In what ways society and culture of students' home countries differ from Japan in terms of their experiences of being part of modern globalization.

V. COURSE MATERIALS:

In order to achieve the three sets of learning objectives listed above, this course provides the following three sets of materials:

(1) LECTURES WITH POWERPOINT SLIDES:

The primary learning material for this course is a set of standard lectures. Each lecture is delivered with a set of PowerPoint presentation slides that will be projected in the classroom.

- ✓ Over the course of this semester, students are required to take notes on all major information delivered through the PowerPoint lecture slides in each class.
- ✓ The note-taking practice not only effectively facilitates students' meaningful understanding of class topics but is also essential for successfully completing each Review Essay assignment, one of the main course requirements as explained below.

(2) REQUIRED READING MATERIALS:

For this course, students are not required to purchase any textbooks. Instead, the instructor has carefully selected 14 articles (a combination of published scholarly research articles and newspaper articles) as the reading materials that students are required to read over the course of this semester.

- ✓ The instructor will hand out the articles in class as scheduled in the course syllabus.
- ✓ Students are required to complete reading each article during assigned periods of time as scheduled in this course syllabus.

(3) IN-CLASS ACTIVITY WORKSHEETS:

This course uses *In-Class Activity Worksheet* as a way to facilitate students' in-class discussion activities (e.g., small group discussions) as an important learning activity of this course. This worksheet lists several open-ended questions relevant to the main topic of the class and provide some space for each question in which to handwrite the answer.

- ✓ The instructor will handout this worksheet to each student only during some selected class meetings.

- ✓ Students will be required to first answer all the questions by themselves during the class meeting, and then they will be asked to exchange their answers with their discussion partners and/or all the rest of the class.
- ✓ All students will be strongly encouraged to utilize the in-class discussion opportunities for their active class participation.

VI. TEXTBOOK:

Refer to V. COURSE MATERIALS (above). This course does not require that students purchase any textbooks. Instead, students are required to receive and read 14 articles that the instructor will provide in class as scheduled in the course syllabus.

VII. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

This course requires that each student complete all of the following four sets of activities:

(1) CLASS ATTENDANCE:

This course will have 15 class meetings, all of which each student is required to attend.

- ☞ Each student will earn 5 points for each class attendance; over the course of the semester a student may earn up to 75 points towards his or her grade in the course.
- ☞ Class attendance will comprise 30.0% of the final course grade.

(2) CLASS PARTICIPATION:

This course requires that each student not only attend all the class meetings but also actively participate in all class activities and discussions.

- ☞ Each student may earn up to 25 points for his or her excellent class participation throughout the semester.
- ☞ At the end of the semester the instructor will assess and grade the level of each student's overall class participation based on the following criteria: 25=excellent; 20=good; 15=moderate, 10=minimum, and 0=no participation.
- ☞ Class participation will comprise 10.0% of the final course grade.

(3) FINAL RESEARCH PAPER WRITING:

This course requires that each student write and submit a final research paper at the end of the semester.

- ☞ A final research paper is expected to demonstrate students' understanding of some selected materials/topics from this course and their application of them to specific subjects of their interest.
- ☞ The final version of a final research paper is due on Class Meeting 15: February 1 (Thursday), 2018.
- ☞ The final research paper is worth up to 100 points; it will be graded based on the content and quality of the writing.
- ☞ Appendix: Guidelines for the Final Research Paper Writing & In-class Presentations are available on pages 7-9 of this course syllabus. Please read these pages closely to develop an effective final research paper.
- ☞ To submit your final research paper, please do both:
(1) hand in a hard copy of your paper in class

AND

- (2) email to the instructor your paper as a Microsoft Word attachment (to: higo.masateru.644@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp).

☞ Final Research Paper Writing will comprise 40.0% of the final course grade.

(4) RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATION:

This course requires that each student orally present the final research paper in class.

☞ Student research paper presentations are scheduled to be conducted on the following three class meetings:

- (1) Class Meeting 13: January 17, 2019 (Thursday);
- (2) Class Meeting 14: January 24, 2019 (Thursday); and
- (3) Class Meeting 15: January 31, 2019 (Thursday).

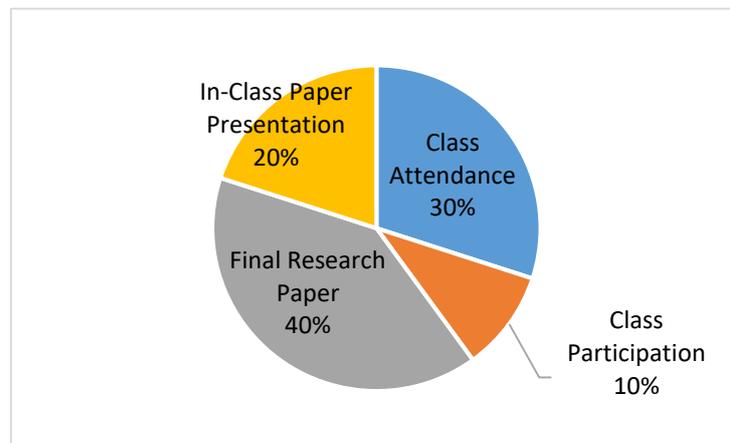
☞ In-class paper presentations are expected to demonstrate students’ skills to orally explain, to other students as well as to the instructor, their research findings and arguments written in the papers.

☞ An in-class paper presentation is worth up to 50 points; it will be graded based on the skills and quality of the presentation.

☞ **Appendix: Guidelines for the Final Research Paper Writing & In-class Presentations** are available on pages 7-9 of this course syllabus. Please read these pages closely to be effectively prepared for the presentation.

☞ Final Research Paper Presentation will comprise 20.0% of the final course grade.

Weighted Grade in Percentage – Course Requirements



VIII. GRADING SYSTEM & POLICIES:

As outlined above, each student earns points by completing the following activities:

1.	Class Attendance:	5 points each	x	15 times	=	75 points max
2.	Class Participation:	25 points	x	Overall	=	25 points max
3.	Final Research Paper	100 points	x	1 time	=	100 points max
4.	In-class Paper Presentation:	50 points	x	1 time	=	50 points max
					Total:	= 250 points max

Grading standards in this course are as follows:

Points in total		In percentage		Letter Grade
225 – 250 points	=	90 – 100%	→	A
200 – 224 points	=	80 – 89%	→	B
175 – 199 points	=	70 – 79%	→	C
150 – 174 points	=	60 – 69%	→	D
0 – 144 points	=	0 – 59%	→	F

IX. EXPECTATIONS FOR STUDENTS:

Each student is responsible for:

- ✓ Being well prepared for each class by closely reading beforehand all the assigned materials specified in the syllabus.
- ✓ Being aware of all dates, deadlines, and assignments and taking their own responsibility to adhere to them.
- ✓ Refraining from personal chatting and use of cellular phones (including Blackberry, iPhone, and the like) during class.
- ✓ Contributing to the collective learning experience by not disrupting the classroom in any way – what you do affects other students and you have an obligation to act in a manner conducive to learning.
- ✓ Actively engaging in class discussion. Engaging in class discussion includes responding to my questions, asking me questions, and responding to other students' comments. It also means listening while others are talking.
- ✓ Respecting the diversity of the classroom composition – there will be differences of opinions, of language, of values, of appearance, and/or discussion styles. You have a right to speak your mind, and an obligation to listen to others.
- ✓ Practicing academic integrity – academic dishonesty includes cheating on exams, stealing copies of exams, copying someone else's work and calling it your own, making up citations, plagiarism, etc. Plagiarism is using someone else's words or ideas and passing them off as your own—for example, copying a chunk of text from a website and pasting it, uncited, into your Review Essay assignments. You are expected to complete assignments in your own words (although, of course, you may have someone else proofread your writing to help you find errors in your spelling, grammar, the logic of your arguments, etc.): Plagiarism is prohibited.

X. CLASS & ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Notes: Throughout the semester, the course schedule will remain subject to change. Changes may be necessary depending on availability of some course materials, such as video programs.

SECTION ONE : BASIC CONCEPTS & THEORIES ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF GLOBALIZATION

Class Meeting 1 – October 4, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Welcome to this Course – Course & Class Introduction***

Class Meeting 2 – October 15, 2018 (Monday) – **At the regular classroom during the regular hours.**

Class Topic: ***How Global Are You? – In-Class Quiz Activity for Warming-Up***

Class Meeting 3 – October 18, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***What Is Globalization? – Defining Modern Globalization***

Class Meeting 4 – October 25, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Is Globalization Good or Bad? – Sociological Theories of Globalization***

SECTION TWO: THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN JAPAN AND MODERN GLOBALIZATION

Class Meeting 5 – November 1, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan in the Midst of Economic Globalization***

Class Meeting 6 – November 8, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan in the Age of Transnational Migration***

Class Meeting 7 – November 15, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan & the Globalization of Crime***

Class Meeting 8 – November 29, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan's Effort for Ecological Sustainability***

Class Meeting 9 – December 6, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan's Toy Making in a Global Market***

Class Meeting 10 – December 13, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan in the Changing Global Landscapes of Sexuality, Marriage & the Family***

Class Meeting 11 – December 20, 2018 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan, Higher Education, and Globalization***

----- Winter Break (December 22, 2018 – January 6, 2019) -----

Class Meeting 12 – January 10, 2019 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Japan and Care Drain in Global Population Aging***

SECTION THREE: WRAPPING-UP – STUDENTS' RESEARCH PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Class Meeting 13 – January 17, 2019 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Student Final Research Paper Presentations, Part 1***

Class Meeting 14 – January 24, 2019 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Student Final Research Paper Presentations, Part 2***

Class Meeting 15 – January 31, 2019 (Thursday)

Class Topic: ***Student Final Research Paper Presentations, Part 3***

Due: Final Research Papers (all students will turn in their papers regardless of their presentation dates.

----- End of the Course Syllabus.

APPENDIX:

GUIDELINES FOR THE FINAL RESEARCH PAPER & IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS



I. OVERVIEW:

- 👉 This course requires that you write a final research paper and present it in class.
- 👉 Your final research paper is expected to:
 - Demonstrate your meaningful understanding of some selected materials/topics from this course; and
 - Contribute to the class by deepening or widening our knowledge of class subjects, and/or adding new knowledge relevant to the subjects (see below “WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT AND HOW”).
- 👉 Your final research paper is worth up to 100 points (accounting for 40% of your final course grade).
- 👉 Your in-class paper presentation is worth up to 50 points (accounting for 20% of your final course grade).

II. WRITING A FINAL RESEARCH PAPER:

PAPER FORMAT:

Paper Length:	12-15 pages, double-spaced
Font & Size:	Times New Roman, 11 or 12-Point Font
Citation & Reference Style:	The APA or ASA Style, preferred. Nonetheless: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any style will be acceptable as long as you clarify all the sources used for your paper. ▪ You may also cite from your lecture notes; it can be cited in the main text as “(Nov. 9 Lecture),” and it can be listed as “Lecture Note (Nov. 9, 2018)” in the references/bibliography.

PAPER DUE DATE:

January 31 (Thursday), 2019, 5:00 PM (regardless of the date for your in-class presentation)

HOW TO TURN IN:

Please do both:

- (1) Hand in a hard copy of your paper in class;
- AND
- (2) Electronically send to me your paper via email as a Microsoft Word attachment (to: higo.masateru.644@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp).

WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT AND HOW:

As declared in our course syllabus, the overall objective of this course is to understand the interplay between Japan and globalization by examining the ways in which Japan has contributed to facilitating, and how it has been affected by, modern globalization economically, socially, culturally, and politically.

Whatever you write about and how you write about it, the goal of your final research paper is to make a contribution to this overall course objective. Thus, let’s approach this course requirement first with a close review of all class materials including the lecture notes, reading materials, and in-class activity worksheets.

Then, consider which of the following three writing approaches would be the most effective for your final research paper to contribute to the overall course objective:

Approach #1: Conducting a Cross-National Comparison

In this approach, you may focus on one or two subjects covered in this course (e.g., transnational migrations). You may then compare and contrast the case of Japan (as introduced in the class) and that of your home country (or a country of your interest/concern). With this approach you may contribute to *deepening* other students' knowledge of the case of Japan by illustrating similarities to and differences from other national contexts. Your cross-national comparison may even include a multiple number of countries or regions.

Approach #2: Extending Class Subjects of Your Special Interest

In this approach, Japan should be the sole country of focus. You may first select one or two subjects covered in this course (e.g., Japan's popular culture as 'soft-power') and then help extend our knowledge of that subject as introduced in class. With this approach, you may help *widen* other students' knowledge by introducing more detailed information, additional knowledge, and/or alternative perspectives pertaining to the subject on top of what we have learned in class through lectures and reading materials.

Approach #3: Adding a New Subject to Address the Course Objective

In this approach, you may identify one or two subjects that were not covered – at least not directly or explicitly – in our course but that you think are meaningful or relevant to the overall objective of the course: understanding the interplay between Japan and globalization. For example, you may discuss issues on "poverty/homelessness," which is a global concern today but is not explicitly covered in our course. With this approach, you may contribute to the entire course by *adding* a new set of knowledge that helps address our overall course objective.

Notes: Your final research paper may adopt more than one of the approaches suggested above. Also, if you would like to develop a final research paper that is fully creative and thus does not fall into any of the three approaches suggested above, please consult with me at your earliest convenience. Your personal proposal might be alternatively accepted, depending upon its potential feasibility and quality.

GRADING CRITERIA:

In writing your final research paper, you may achieve up to 100 points; your paper will be graded based upon the following criteria:

Criterion 1: Overall effectiveness in contributing to the overall course objective (→ worth up to 50 points).

Criterion 2: Organization of your discussion (→ worth up to 25 points).

Criterion 3: Clarity of writing/composition in general (→ worth up to 25 points).

III. PRESENTING YOUR RESEARCH PAPER IN CLASS:

PRESENTATION DATES:

Research paper presentations will be conducted during the following last three class meetings of this course:

- (1) January 17 (Thursday), 2019 (during the regular class hours)
- (2) January 24 (Thursday), 2019 (during the regular class hours)
- (3) January 31 (Thursday), 2019 (during the regular class hours)

Notes: The instructor will decide the date of your presentation, and you are required to comply with the date of the research paper presentation. If failing to comply with the date under any circumstance, you will lose the opportunity to earn any credit points from presenting your research paper.

PAPER PRESENTATION MANNERS:

Research paper presentations are expected to demonstrate your skills to orally explain the content of your research paper to other classmates as well as to the instructor.

- Each student will be given 15 minutes to orally present his/her paper in class (Please note that the maximum length of your presentation is subject to change depending largely on the number of students who enroll in this course).
- Each presentation will be followed by a 2-minute-Q&A (in total each presentation may run about 17 min.).

Please be aware that you are to present your paper “in class” – not just to the instructor but mainly to your classmates. Please present your paper in a way that you will dedicate your paper to our entire class in order to contribute to the overall course objective.

As you are aware, it is very challenging to provide a clear summary of your paper’s major contents and arguments in just 15 minutes. Therefore, you are strongly encouraged to practice, time yourself, and strategically prepare yourself for your paper presentation.

You are encouraged – though not required – to develop and use PowerPoint presentation slides to facilitate your presentation. If you choose to do so, you will be required to do both:

- (1) Email the instructor (higo.masateru.644@m.kyushu-u.ac.jp) your PPT slides at least by the day before your presentation; and
- (2) Bring with you in class on your presentation date your PP slides in a memory stick (e.g., USB).

GRADING CRITERIA:

Your presentation is subject to be graded; you may achieve up to 35 points for your paper presentation (please remember 50 points does make a big difference in your overall grade).

Your paper presentation will be graded based on the instructor’s assessment of how successfully your presentation meets the expectations listed above (in “PAPER PRESENTATION MANNERS”). The instructor’s assessment will be translated into the following numerical points:

Significance	Points
Excellent:	50 Points
Very Good:	40 Points
Good:	30 Points
Satisfactory:	20 Points
Poor:	10 points
Problematic:	0 Point



----- End of the Appendix.