

JAPANESE SOCIETY AND CULTURE 1 • 2

MODULE HANDBOOK

Eriko Ishida

Term: Spring & Fall Semesters

Numbering

Credits 2

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This handbook provides information about the module and its operation. Please study it carefully.

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1. Introduction / Welcome

This module is designed for the international students who wish to explore various aspects of Japanese society and culture. As the class is conducted in Japanese, Intermediate or upper level of Japanese language proficiency is required.

2.0. Module Description

2.1 Overall Module Aims:

The module aims to give students opportunities to deepen their own understanding of Japan while learning about social issues, trends, and knowledge necessary for living in Japan.

2.2 Subject Specific Module Aims:

Students will work on textbooks, paper and audio references to acquire general knowledge of various fields. Then students share what they have learned by exchanging experiences and analysis with each other and presenting their own investigation. Students also write essays on each topic to develop their ability to express their perspectives.

2.3 Skills and Abilities

Ability to absorb knowledge on social issues in Japan

Ability to discuss in depth on social issues in Japan

Ability to research, present and write on topics of interest

Ability to communicate with international classmates by understanding and exchanging cultural sense of values

2.4 Applied Learning

The module enables the students to learn diverse values in Japan and attitudes toward social issues, not only in terms of interests but also in various aspects. By discussing with classmates, they will be encouraged to exchange opinions also with Japanese people outside of the classroom, which enables them to facilitate communication in the community and build deeper relationships.

3.0. Learning Outcomes

3.1. Learning Outcomes – overall

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- get general knowledge of the interests of international and Japanese students
- get well-rounded understandings of Japanese society and enrich their experience living in Japan
- use their knowledge of social issues to discuss them with Japanese and International people

3.2. Learning Outcomes - specific

On completion of this module, students should be able to:

- comprehend texts and contents of reference about Japan
- analyze Japanese values from various points of view
- understand topics from multiple perspectives
- share their experiences and thoughts, and make their life in Japan easier and meaningful

4.0 The Module Team

The address for the Department within which your module is situated is:

Tokyo College of Music
1-9-1 Kamimeguro,
Meguroku, Tokyo, JAPAN

Staff involved in the organization and delivery of this module are as follows:

<i>Eriko Ishida</i>	<i>Module Leader</i>	<i>Ishida_eriko@tokyo-ondai.ac.jp</i>
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Module Leader

The Module tutor has overall responsibility for organizing, delivering and assessing a module. It is the Module Leader who you should see with any queries or problems related to a specific module, if the Course administrative officer cannot help.

Music Liberal Arts	Course administrator	<i>m1a@tokyo-ondai.ac.jp</i>
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Course administrator

The Course Assistant has responsibility for providing a full and responsive administrative service in support of the processes and procedures associated with student and course administration.

5.0 Indicative Syllabus

Each class consists of 3 elements

- small talk time: news and seasonal traditions, foods, events, etc.
- texts reading to get knowledge, and group discussion about the topics
- sharing interests, presentation

Examples of the topics: values around family and interpersonal relationships,

the education system and university life, work culture, political system, economic situation and social challenges, key historical events, traditional culture and their significance, pop/youth culture, geographic features, the connection between nature and culture, environmental initiatives, international-multicultural society, etc.

6.0. Delivery Information:

Week	Title	Synopsis
1	Orientation Daily life and customs 1	Outline of the course Ice-breaking activities
2	Society and culture in Japan Daily life and customs 2	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
3	Society and culture in Japan Daily life and customs 3	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
4	Society and culture in Japan Contemporary Japanese society 1	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
5	Society and culture in Japan Contemporary Japanese society 2	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
6	Society and culture in Japan Contemporary Japanese society 3	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
7	Society and culture in Japan Japanese culture 1	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
8	Midterm break	Presentation and discussion
9	Society and culture in Japan Japanese culture 2	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
10	Society and culture in Japan Japanese culture 3	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
11	Society and culture in Japan Nature and environmental issues 1	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion

		Sharing interests
12	Society and culture in Japan Nature and environmental issues 2	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests
13	Society and culture in Japan Multicultural society 1	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests: presentation
14	Society and culture in Japan Multicultural society 2	News and seasonal topics Text reading and group discussion Sharing interests: presentation
15	Final exam, feedback	Writing test and feedback

7.0 Independent Study – Preparation for Lecture

Students are expected to spend about an hour each week prior to and after classes. Points of preview and review will be given at the end of each class. Students' progress in key module skills is monitored throughout the course. Following receipt of the report at the end of the semester, the module leader will provide students with formative feedback on their comprehension, writing and speaking skills.

8.0 Assessment and Practical Tasks:

Assignment:

Final evaluation will be based on completion of the following: Class participation and performance 50%, Exams 40%, and Assignments 10%.

Module Grading Bands		
S	90% +	<p>Excellent demonstration of scholarly application / critical understanding of subject area knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well-structured assignment that addresses the learning outcomes and specific criteria for the module • critical understanding/application is evident through systematic and relevant coverage of content • clearly communicated in a style appropriate to the assessment brief • accurate and predominately consistent use of a recognized referencing system • wide range of appropriate sources

A	80-89%	<p>Very good demonstration of scholarly application / critical understanding of subject area knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • well-structured assignment that addresses the learning outcomes and specific criteria for the module • critical understanding/application is generally evident in the coverage of content • clearly communicated in a style appropriate to the assessment brief • predominantly consistent and generally accurate use of a recognized referencing system • good range of appropriate sources
B	70-79%	<p>Good demonstration of scholarly application / critical understanding of subject area knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fairly well-structured assignment that addresses the learning outcomes and specific criteria for the module • some critical understanding/application is evident through coverage of content which is also descriptive • good communication in a style appropriate to the assessment brief • predominantly consistent and generally accurate use of a recognized referencing system • a range of appropriate sources
C	60-69%	<p>Adequate demonstration of scholarly application / critical understanding of subject area knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adequately structured assignment that addresses the learning outcomes and specific criteria for the module • largely descriptive with some critical understanding/application evident through coverage of content • communicates in a style appropriate to the assessment brief • attempts to use a recognized referencing system but may have occasional systematic errors • a limited selection of appropriate sources
D+ Fail	40-59%	<p>Limited demonstration of scholarly application / critical understanding of subject area knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poorly structured assignment that does not completely address the module learning outcomes and specific criteria • work is descriptive in its coverage of the content

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poor communication that does not use a style appropriate to the assessment brief • use of recognized referencing system is systematically inaccurate throughout the document • an insufficient range of appropriate sources
D Fail	10-39%	<p>Poor demonstration of scholarly application / critical understanding of subject area knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • poorly structured assignment that does not address the learning outcomes and specific criteria for the module • coverage of the content is inadequate or incomplete • poor communication that does not use a style appropriate to the assessment brief • recognized referencing system is not used • sources are very limited or absent, or over reliance on one or two sources
D- Fail	0-9%	Very poorly structured assignment that does not address any of the learning outcomes or the specific criteria for the module

9.0 Further Reading Sources