JAPAN, GLOBALIZATION, AND CITIZENSHIP:
THE CULTURE AND POLITICS OF BELONGING
IN AN ERA OF TRANSNATIONALISM AND COSMOPOLITANISM

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course is about the culture and politics of belonging in our age of globalization, transnationalism, and multiculturalism. Increased mobility, cosmopolitanism, and other processes and ideologies associated with globalization conflict with conventional legal regimes of citizenship and forms of cultural identity rooted in the nation-state. Taking Japan as our focus, we will examine the nature of this conflict, the problems it creates for non-citizens, citizens, and states, and the novel forms of belonging that appear to be emerging as states and individuals respond to these problems.

While this course is focused on Japan and Japanese people, it places them in larger transnational contexts and speaks to questions of global concern. What happens when people of ‘mixed heritage’ assert claims to membership in multiple national-cultural? What happens when guest workers and other migrants are denied proper visas or prevented from becoming citizens? How do they respond? What rights and obligations do they have? What happens as forms of being and belonging reach out, beyond the nation-state, to the world for their justification and validation? What does it mean to be a citizen of the world today?

One of our central goals will be to see whether and how our answers to these questions require us to reconceptualize conventional understandings of citizens and citizenship which evolved within paradigms designed to address nationalism and the development of the international system of nation-states.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS
• Class participation (10% of the final grade). Students will take turns giving short 5 minute presentations on news stories relating to globalization, cosmopolitanism, citizenship, etc. To foster dialogue, these news stories will be posted on the Wiki page and students can post comments about them. In
addition, students are expected to keep up with the readings and contribute to class discussions about them.

- 3 Pre-midterm reaction papers and wiki posts (20%). These short 1-2 page papers should critically discuss the readings for a given session. They must be turned in before the sessions. In addition, a key term from the reading must be defined within the context of the reading and posted to the key terms section of the Wiki page. The last reaction paper and post must be on or before March 7th.
- Team Presentations on readings (25%). In teams of 2-3 you will give 15 minute long presentations on one week’s readings.
- Final Project (45%): in lieu of a research paper, I would like you to build a wiki webpage about on a topic relating to the central themes of this course. This webpage will allow you to include text, audio, and visual content, and hyperlinks, making it a multi-media project. A technician from the Center for New Media will give a tutorial on the wiki technology. You will work on the page in small teams. All members must contribute to the main page and other basic sections of the case study, including historical and political context, news reports, and a map, and we will review your postings in class on a regular basis. But you will also make an individual contribution that will be linked to the main page. This individual contribution will be the equivalent of a 10 -12 page paper, but it need not be limited to text—it can include images and audio/audio-visual recordings (of interviews, for example). You should have selected a topic and begun work on the main page by the 4th or 5th week of the course. Your project can expand on one of the topics covered in this course, but you are also free to explore other topics. I will be more than happy to discuss these with you. Finally, you will be expected to turn in and discuss a plan for the website with the me by the 4th - 5th week. Final due date for the projects is May 4th.

**Required Books**

Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction to the Course


Week 2: Modernity and National Belonging


Recommended Readings:


Week 3: Citizenship and National Identity in Modern Japan


Recommended Readings:

**Week 4: Globalization and ‘Flexible Citizenship’**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 5: Cosmopolitanism**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 6: “Multicultural Japan”?**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 7: Who Is Japanese?: Japan’s Internal Outsiders**


**Week 8: Japan’s Greying Population & Immigration Debate**


**Week 9: International Immigration Regimes and Guest Workers, Part 1**


**Recommended Readings:**

**Takeyuki Tsuda.** “Crossing Ethnic Boundaries: Japanese Brazilian Return Migrants and the Ethnic Challenge of Japan’s Newest Immigrant Minority,” in Nelson Graburn, John Ertl,

**Week 10: International Immigration Regimes and Guest Workers, Part 2**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 11: Creative Migrants and World Citizens, Part 1**


**Week 12: Creative Migrants and World Citizens, Part 2**


**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 13: Multiculturalism and The Hafu Problem in Japan**

Michael Fitzpatrick and Tim Macfarlan. “Miss Japan Ariana Miyamoto hits out at racial abuse,” *The Daily Mail*, 1 April 2015.


Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu. “The Invisible Man’ and Other Narratives of Living in the Borderlands of Race and Nation,” in David Blake Willis and Stephen Murphy-Shigematsu,

**Marcia Yumi Lise.** The Hafu Project Pamphlet. 2010

**Film:** *Hafu: The Mixed Race Experience in Japan*, Directed by Megumi Nishikura and Lara Perez Takagi, 2014.

**Recommended Readings:**


**Week 14: Review and Conclusion**