COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course provides a critical introduction to postwar Japanese society. Readings will examine the impact of postwar social, economic, and political changes on the lives of different social groups, including salaried workers, women, ethnic minorities, activists and youth. Using a sociological angle, we will explore power, ideology, and social change in postwar Japanese society. This course may be counted toward a major in Asian studies or special major in Japanese.

REQUIRED READINGS:
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Discussion paper
Each week, two students will present on the topic of the day and lead the discussion. Presentations should be based on a five-page discussion paper, which outlines and critically assesses the main argument of the readings. You should not merely summarize the readings in your paper. The discussion paper is due on the day of your presentation.

Midterm take-home exam
Topics for the midterm take-home exam will be distributed in class two weeks prior to the due date. In your essay, you will be asked to discuss central problems raised by the assigned readings and lectures so far. The essay should be double spaced and five pages long.

Literature review
You should write a five-page literature review on a topic related to your research paper. In your review, you should provide an overview of the existing literature on your topic of research and outline the main arguments advanced by different authors. The literature review is due November 8th.

Research paper:
A one-page proposal, which states your topic and major question, as well as a short bibliography is due October 25. The final paper should be 12-15 pages long. Drafts of final papers will be discussed in class on November 22 and 29.

Attendance, class participation, and webmemos:
You should attend all class meetings, read the assigned materials in time for class and actively participate in class discussion. You should also make weekly postings on the course website, in which you reflect on the readings of that week. Postings are due at 8am on the day of class. The discussion board for the postings is located under ‘communication’ – ‘discussion boards.’

Evaluation:
Discussion paper – day of presentation 20%
Midterm essay – Oct. 4 20%
Literature review – Nov. 8 10%
Research paper – Dec. 10 30%
Attendance, class participation, webmemos – weekly 20%

Late papers will result in a reduction of your grade.

Course website:
You can access the course website by clicking on “blackboard” under “finding what you need” on the library homepage (http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/). Your login for Blackboard is your username preceded by sc. (e.g. sc.username). If you don’t know your password, use the ‘forgot your password?’ function. The title of the course should appear on the upper right hand side after you login. To access required readings, click on “Course Documents” on the course website.


COURSE SCHEDULE

POSTWAR JAPAN: AN INTRODUCTION

August 30

1. Introduction

September 6

2. New beginnings: War and Occupation

Film screening: Occupied Japan: An Experiment in Democracy, Oregon Public Television (1996, 60 min)


September 13

3. Democracy and postwar reconstruction


September 20

4. Japan’s Economic Miracle and the New Middle Class


Recommended:


September 27

5. Office Ladies, salarymen, and the company system


October 4 – Midterm essay due

6. Corporate entertainment and the construction of gender identities


Library research session

OCTOBER HOLIDAY
POLITICS AND PROTEST

October 18

7. Protest and democracy


Recommended:


October 25 — Research paper proposal due

8. Women and politics


INEQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND SOCIAL CHANGE

November 1

9. Race and ethnicity


Sonia Ryang, “Introduction: resident Koreans in Japan”

Chikako Kashiwazaki, “The politics of legal status: the equation of nationality with ethnonational identity”

Koichi Iwabuchi, “Political correctness, postcoloniality, and the self-representation of ‘Koreanness’ in Japan”

Jeffry T. Hester, “Kids between nations: ethnic classes in the construction of Korean identities in Japanese public schools.”
Recommended:
Hiromitsu Inokuchi, “Korean ethnic schools in occupied Japan, 1945-1952”

November 8  – Literature review due

10. Youth


Recommended:

November 15

11. Japanese popular culture at home and abroad


Recommended:

November 22

12. Gender and sexual identities

Film: *Shinjuku Boys*, directed by Kim Longinotto, Jano Williams, and John Mister (1996, 53 min)


Research paper presentations

THANKSGIVING BREAK
November 29

13. Postwar Japan: a reassessment


Research paper presentations

A final draft of your research paper is due December 10, 2004