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Disclaimer
Macquarie University has taken all reasonable measures to ensure the information in this publication is accurate and up-to-date. However, the information may change or become out-dated as a result of change in University policies, procedures or rules. The University reserves the right to make changes to any information in this publication without notice. Users of this publication are advised to check the website version of this publication [or the relevant faculty or department] before acting on any information in this publication.

Notice
As part of Phase 3 of our return to campus plan, most units will now run tutorials, seminars and other small group learning activities on campus for the second half-year, while keeping an online version available for those students unable to return or those who choose to continue their studies online.

To check the availability of face to face activities for your unit, please go to timetable viewer. To check detailed information on unit assessments visit your unit’s iLearn space or consult your unit convener.
General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Convenor, Lecturer, Tutor
Tom Baudinette
tom.baudinette@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
By appointment

Tutor
Kathryn Phillips
kathryn.phillips@mq.edu.au
Contact via Email
By appointment

Credit points
10

Prerequisites
80cp at 1000 level or above

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit explores various issues in contemporary Japanese society, investigating how Japanese people navigate these issues and develop strategies of support and resistance to structural inequalities. The unit trains students to develop critical analytical skills to identify the role of culture in the production of social issues. The unit is divided into four "modules": 1) Precarious Japan, 2) Gender and Sexuality, 3) Ethnic Minorities, and 4) Japan in the World. Topics covered include: cultural dynamics of the contemporary family; politics and civil society; economic cycles of boom and stress; environmental issues and tipping points; the pathway to adulthood; reconstructions of gender, Japanese sexual minority cultures; ethnic difference and communities; minorities and social peripheries; and Japan's place in the broader world. This unit is taught in English and no prior knowledge of Japanese language is required.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates
Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

  **ULO1:** Demonstrate detailed knowledge of a wide range of aspects of Japanese culture and society, drawing upon the theoretical traditions of cultural anthropology and sociology to do so
  **ULO2:** Demonstrate initiative and competence in research, including independently locating appropriate sources, developing an argument, and writing in an efficient and timely manner with correct referencing
  **ULO3:** Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation, both orally and in writing
  **ULO4:** Present information in a clear, focused, and well-structured manner, both orally and in writing
  **ULO5:** Demonstrate a high level of interpersonal communication skills through class participation

General Assessment Information
Late Submissions, Extensions and Supplementary Tests

Assessment tasks are compulsory and must be submitted on time. If you anticipate unavoidable difficulty in completing an assessment task (in class and/or online), contact the convener or your tutor as soon as possible.

Late Assessment Penalty

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, (a) a penalty for lateness will apply – two (2) marks out of 100 will be deducted per day for assignments submitted after the due date – and (b) no assignment will be accepted more than seven (7) days (incl. weekends) after the original submission deadline. No late submissions will be accepted for timed assessments – e.g. quizzes, online tests.

Special Consideration

If a student is prevented by serious and unavoidable disruption from completing unit requirements in accordance with their ability, they may apply for support under the Special Consideration Policy. To access this support, students must notify the university via ask.mq.edu.au. Students should refer to the Policy for further information (see the link provided in the 'Policies and procedures' section of this unit guide).

Examples of Assessment Tasks

Indicative examples of assessment tasks will be available in class and/or iLearn.
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Hurdle</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module Quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>11:59PM Sunday, Weeks 5, 8, 11, 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay Proposal</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5PM Friday, Week 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>5PM Friday, Week 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Module Quizzes
Assessment Type 1: Quiz/Test
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours
Due: 11:59PM Sunday, Weeks 5, 8, 11, 13
Weighting: 20%

Online multiple choice quizzes assessing students' knowledge of each module's key ideas and themes

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate detailed knowledge of a wide range of aspects of Japanese culture and society, drawing upon the theoretical traditions of cultural anthropology and sociology to do so
- Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation, both orally and in writing

Essay Proposal
Assessment Type 1: Essay
Indicative Time on Task 2: 20 hours
Due: 5PM Friday, Week 5
Weighting: 20%

Students will propose a small analytical research project related to one of the unit modules. Proposal will be submitted online.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate detailed knowledge of a wide range of aspects of Japanese culture and society, drawing upon the theoretical traditions of cultural anthropology and sociology to do so
- Demonstrate initiative and competence in research, including independently locating
appropriate sources, developing an argument, and writing in an efficient and timely manner with correct referencing

• Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation, both orally and in writing
• Present information in a clear, focused, and well-structured manner, both orally and in writing

Research Essay
Assessment Type: Essay
Indicative Time on Task: 30 hours
Due: 5PM Friday, Week 13
Weighting: 45%

Students will research and write an argumentative analytical essay based on the project which they have proposed. Essay will be submitted online.

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Demonstrate detailed knowledge of a wide range of aspects of Japanese culture and society, drawing upon the theoretical traditions of cultural anthropology and sociology to do so
• Demonstrate initiative and competence in research, including independently locating appropriate sources, developing an argument, and writing in an efficient and timely manner with correct referencing
• Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation, both orally and in writing
• Present information in a clear, focused, and well-structured manner, both orally and in writing

Participation
Assessment Type: Participatory task
Indicative Time on Task: 13 hours
Due: Continuous
Weighting: 15%

Students are required to actively participate in all activities (both online and in-class, where applicable)

On successful completion you will be able to:
• Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation, both orally and in writing
• Present information in a clear, focused, and well-structured manner, both orally and in writing
• Demonstrate a high level of interpersonal communication skills through class participation

1 If you need help with your assignment, please contact:
  • the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
  • the Learning Skills Unit for academic skills support.

2 Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources
The class is divided into four "modules" of three weeks each, The Modules are:

1) Precarious Japan
2) Gender and Sexuality
3) Ethnic Minorities
4) Japan in the World

Each teaching week, there will be a one hour recorded lecture that students must engage with. Students enrolled into Special Circumstances will also participate in a one hour Zoom tutorial discussion each week. This Zoom discussion will be mostly student led, with the teaching staff primarily acting as a facilitator of student discussion, as well as assessing each students' participation.

Each lecture will cover the broader theoretical themes of the week, whereas the Zoom tutorial discussions will focus on each week's required readings. It will be essential that students complete the required readings before each week's lecture. A summary of each week's major themes may be found in iLearn and in the Unit Guide (under Unit Schedule).

This unit has an online presence.

Login is via: https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/

Is my unit in iLearn?: http://help.ilearn.mq.edu.au/unitonline/ to check when your online unit will become available.

Technology
Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient. This is particularly true for online tests (to be conducted at home).

Students are required to access the online unit in iLearn by the end of Week 1 and follow any
relevant instructions and links for downloads that may be required.

- For central technical support go to: [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/)
- For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn/ilearn-quick-guides-for-students](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/tools-and-resources/ilearn/ilearn-quick-guides-for-students)

## Unit Schedule

Below is the unit schedule, including the topics and required readings for each week. All the required readings will be made available via iLearn from Week 1. Students are encouraged to read ahead in order to prepare for the various assessment tasks.

### Introduction

**Week 1: What is “Japanese Studies”?**

In this introductory lecture, we will explore the scholarly tradition of Japanese Studies to understand how different scholars in different periods approached and understood Japanese society. These disciplinary discussions are crucial for understanding the rest of the content we will be discussing in each of the modules. We will also explore the Assessments of the Unit, as well as briefly discuss contemporary Japan's demographic situation.

**Essential Reading (by Week 2)**


### Module 1: Precarious Japan

**Week 2: Social precariousness after the “Lost Decades”**

In the introductory lecture for Module 1: Precarious Japan, we will firstly discuss the important sociological concepts of structure and agency to contextualise our understandings of Japanese society. We will then discuss the postwar economic and social development of Japan, focussing upon the increasing neoliberalisation of Japanese society after the collapse of the Bubble Economy of the 1980s. In discussing the so-called Lost Decades (1990s & 2000s), we will focus upon the trope of precarity/precariousness to investigate contemporary social disadvantage. We will place a particular focus on Japan's declining birthrate and its effects on Japanese society.

**Essential Reading**


**Week 3: Youth responses to changing employment and social withdrawal**

In the second lecture of Module 1: Precarious Japan, we will focus our discussions more closely
on changing conditions of employment and their effects on young people in Japan. We will begin by discussing the development of ideals of life-long employment in postwar Japanese society, and then discuss how the casualisation of the workforce since the Koizumi administration has adversely affected youths in Japan. Drawing upon our understandings of social precarity, structure, and agency, we will examine a number of youth subcultures which have emerged in reaction to the casualisation of the workforce, including the freeter, NEET, sôshoku danshi and hikikomori phenomena.

Essential Reading


Week 4: On the margins: Disability in Japan

In the final lecture for Module 1: Precarious Japan, we will examine what it means to exist on the margins of a society, with a specific focus on disability and mental illness in contemporary Japan. As background, we will chart the history of medicine in Japan, with a particular focus on the influence of Shinto notions of purity on contemporary attitudes towards the differently-abled. Through our reading, we will then investigate governmental attempts to create a "barrier free" society that supports the integration of the differently-abled into society, as well as discussing some of the failures of such policies. A significant focus will be placed on disability rights activism in Japan and on understanding how differently-abled individuals and groups exercise their agency to advocate for change in Japanese society.

Essential Reading


Module 2: Gender and Sexuality

Week 5: Is Japanese masculinity in crisis?

In the introductory lecture of the Module 2: Gender and Sexuality, we will move from our focus on the neoliberalisation of Japanese society to examine contemporary debates concerning masculinity in Japan. We will begin by tracing the various historical ideologies of masculinity in Japan and explore how they are linked to notions of employment and fatherhood as embodied in the figures of the kigyô senshi and daikokubashira. We will then turn to discuss emerging masculine youth cultures in post-Bubble Japan which challenge such ideologies, including the sôshoku danshi, the newly emerging jendâresu danshi, and male otaku. Throughout, we will reflect upon the role of heteronormativity in structuring notions of Japanese masculinity, as well as the construction of "hegemonic" masculinities.
Essential Reading


Week 6: Historical feminisms in contemporary Japan

In the second lecture of Module 2: Gender and Sexuality, we will trace the historical development of feminist movements in Japan in order to understand the changing roles of women in Japanese society. Before examining the history of feminism in Japan, we will examine some of the ideologies of womanhood which have been dominant in Japan, including ryōsai kenbo and the yamato nadeshiko. We will then examine how feminist groups have challenged such notions, placing a particular emphasis on the role of women in postwar Japan’s politics. We will end the discussion by investigating young women’s sub-cultural subversions of hegemonic femininity, including the gothic lolita fashion community. Important to these discussions are how women exercise their agency within patriarchal social structures.

Essential Reading


Week 7: Japan’s LGBT communities: Historical trajectories

In the final lecture of Module 2: Gender and Sexuality, we will explore the historical trajectories of Japan's diverse LGBT communities. We will begin by focussing upon Japanese historical understandings of (male) homosexuality, charting the changing representations of sexual minorities in Japanese media. We will place a particular emphasis on the historical development of Japanese terminology for discussing sexual minorities in the Japanese postwar context. We will then explore the postwar histories of Japan's gay male and lesbian communities, with a particular focus placed upon the historical role of activism within these communities. We will finish by reflecting upon the positioning of LGBT groups in Japan from the perspective of social precarity, and explore recent debates in Japanese government concerning the introduction of anti-discrimination legislation for LGBT communities.

Essential Reading

Module 3: Ethnic minorities in Japan

Week 8: Gaijin, blackness and ethnic stereotypes in Japan

In this introductory lecture for Module 3: Ethnic Minorities, we will move our focus to understanding historical and contemporary patterns of immigration to Japan as well as thinking through the various stereotypes of "foreigners" to be found in Japanese media. After discussing the differences between nationality, race and ethnicity (with a focus on Japanese understandings of such concepts), we will investigate media representations of gaijin (white foreigners) and black (African, African American, and Afro-Caribbean) individuals and groups in contemporary Japan. We will place a strong focus throughout this module on problematising notions of Japan as an ethnically and linguistically homogeneous society through a critical investigation of nihonjinron.

Essential Reading


Week 9: Ethnic Koreans in Japan

In the second lecture of Module 3: Ethnic Minorities, we will examine the history of the zainichi kankokujin, the long-term ethnic Korean minority living in Japan. As well as tracing the historical trajectory of this ethnic group, our discussions of zainichi communities will touch upon the contemporary socio-political relationships between Japan, South Korea, and North Korea in the postwar era. We will examine the contentious issue of ethnic discrimination and hate speech in the Japanese context through a discussion of a right-wing group known as Zaitokukai (Association of Citizens against the Special Privileges of the Zainichi) who have often come into conflict with local governments due to their anti-Korean rhetoric. Finally, we will examine what impact the "Korean Wave" has had on Japan-Korean relationships.

Essential Reading


Week 10: Chinese migration to Japan: Education, leisure, and sex
In the final lecture of Module 3: Ethnic Minorities, we will turn our attention to Japan's largest ethnic group, the Chinese. In particular, we will focus our discussion on educationally-channeled migrants from the People's Republic of China as a site to discuss the ambiguities surrounding Japanese understandings of the Chinese people as both a national group and as a "race". We will chart the historical trajectory of discourses of Chineseness in Japanese society, thinking through such terms as *kakyo*, *shinajin* and *furyō chūgokujin*. The lecture will conclude with a discussion of the intersections of ethnicity and sexuality, linking discussions had in Module 2 to our discussions of ethnicity, by focussing upon gay Chinese tourists' experiences of xenophobia in Japan.

**Essential Reading**


**Module 4: Japan in the world**

**Week 11: History debates in East Asia: The Yasukuni Controversy**

In this introductory lecture to Module 4: Japan in the World, we move our focus away from solely looking at Japanese society within a domestic context and broaden some of our discussions to consider Japan's situatedness within the world. We begin by thinking through Japan’s relationships with its East Asian neighbours. Important to this discussion is an understanding of the role of wartime history on contemporary Japanese international relations. We will discuss how various sociologists and historians understand Japan as a "continually postwar" society. As a case study, we examine the various controversies surrounding the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo as a way to explore the contested nature of war memorialisation. We will also look at how the war is memorialised in Australia as a comparative case study.

**Essential Reading**


**Week 12: Understanding Japanese migrants and residents in Australia**

In the second lecture for Module 4: Japan in the World, we will explore the experiences of Japanese people who travel to Australia to study, work or permanently settle. We will begin with a brief overview of the history of Australia-Japan relations, before turning to investigating Australians’ historical attitudes towards the Japanese. We will then explore the experiences of Japanese in Australia from a similar perspective to that adopted in Module 3 when discussing ethnic minorities in Japan. We will focus on how Japanese living in Australia maintain their cultural identities as Japanese, as well as explore how migrating to Australia leads to cultural
hybridity. Our discussions will focus on reasons why Japanese choose to move to Australia, exploring important sociological theories concerning mobility and cosmopolitanism.

Essential Reading


**Week 13: Exploring nuclear disaster in a transnational context**

In the final lecture for Module 4: Japan in the World, we will look at the transnationality of nuclear disaster via a case study of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 3, 2011. We will begin by investigating the history and effects of natural disaster on the formation of Japanese society, as well as explore transnational environmental activism surrounding pollution in Japan which emerged in the 1970s. We will then think about how the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant can be viewed transnationally, thinking through the global circulation of nuclear material between Japan, the US and Australia. We will tie these discussions to a renewed focus on social precariousness, taking our discussions of Japanese society full circle by investigating the informal life politics of those Japanese coping with nuclear fallout back home.

Essential Reading


**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from Policy Central ([https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central)). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- Academic Appeals Policy
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Academic Progression Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Fitness to Practice Procedure
- Grade Appeal Policy
- Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public
- Special Consideration Policy (Note: The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4
Students seeking more policy resources can visit the Student Policy Gateway (https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit Policy Central (https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central).

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct

**Results**

Results published on platform other than eStudent, (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit http://students.mq.edu.au/support/

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to help you improve your marks and take control of your study.

- **Getting help with your assignment**
- **Workshops**
- **StudyWise**
- **Academic Integrity Module**

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- **Subject and Research Guides**
- **Ask a Librarian**

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

If you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au
Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the Disability Service who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.