



JPNS3021

Social Issues in Contemporary Japan

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor, Tutor

Ryosuke Hanada

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

130cp 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. Through engaging with authentic Japanese media texts and scholarship, students to develop critical analytical skills to identify and articulate the role of culture in the production of social issues in Japan. 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.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-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 by drawing upon authentic Japanese media texts and scholarship.

ULO2: Develop competence in research, including independently locating appropriate sources in Japanese and English, developing a theoretical argument, and

communicating results in an efficient manner.

ULO3: Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation of authentic Japanese media texts, 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 intercultural communicative competence through class participation and engagement with authentic Japanese media texts.

General Assessment Information

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue.

This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (including essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic.

The granting of extensions is subject to the university's Special Consideration Policy. Extensions will not be granted by unit conveners or tutors, but must be lodged through Special Consideration: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

GRADE APPEAL POLICY

Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/appeals/grade-appeal>

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Reflexive Presentation	35%	No	27/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Module Quizzes	20%	No	Continuous	Individual	No	Observed
Research Essay	45%	No	08/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Reflexive Presentation

Assessment Type ¹: Presentation task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 33 hours

Due: **27/09/2026**

Weighting: **35%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

This collaborative group presentation requires students to critically reflect on a social issue introduced in class

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Develop competence in research, including independently locating appropriate sources in Japanese and English, developing a theoretical argument, and communicating results in an efficient manner.
- Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation of authentic Japanese media texts, 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 intercultural communicative competence through class participation and engagement with authentic Japanese media texts.

Module Quizzes

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Continuous**

Weighting: **20%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: No

AI Approach: Observed

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

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation of authentic Japanese media texts, both orally and in writing.

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 30 hours

Due: **08/11/2026**

Weighting: **45%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

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:

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- Develop competence in research, including independently locating appropriate sources in Japanese and English, developing a theoretical argument, and communicating results in an efficient manner.
- Generate reasoned, considered and original analysis and evaluation of authentic Japanese media texts, both orally and in writing.
- Present information in a clear, focused, and well-structured manner, both orally and in writing

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

• You should spend an average of 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes watching or attending lectures prior to seminars or tutorials, reading weekly required materials as detailed in iLearn/Leganto, participating in iLearn discussion forums and preparing assessments.

- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar or tutorial sessions, and external students are expected to make significant contributions to the on-line discussion forums/activities.
- In most cases students are required to attempt and submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and the Leganto site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed through the library or will be made available by other means.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Computer and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement. · This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.
- Information about IT used at Macquarie University is available at http://students.mq.edu.au/it_services/

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>). 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](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central](https://policies.mq.edu.au) (<https://policies.mq.edu.au>) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/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 connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the 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 Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)

- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.02 of the [Handbook](#)