



JPS 124

Japanese Contemporary Culture

S2 External 2018

Dept of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit Convenor/Lecturer

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Online Tutor

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Contact via Email

Credit points

3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit comprehensively explores Japanese contemporary culture from socio-cultural, psychological, philosophical and literary perspectives. It will place a particular focus on manga and anime, providing insights into their unique visual and linguistic narratives (such as symbolism, conventions, and the specific features and issues characterising manga/anime creation and circulation) as well as socio-cultural, political and economic influences.

Furthermore, this unit is designed to help students to develop their appreciation of Japanese traditional cultural assets and their continuity with Japanese popular culture. In addition, as a 100 level unit, this unit incorporates basic skills training for research and essay writing. This unit is conducted in English and is open to students of any Faculty interested in Japan.

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:

develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance

develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production

read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions

actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing

develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner

search for academic references or other relevant materials

plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

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

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Unit Participation	15%	No	Weekly
Reading Game	20%	No	Weekly
Performing Japan's Pop Culture	25%	No	September 30

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<u>Essay Presentation</u>	5%	No	W13
<u>Essay</u>	35%	No	November 11

Unit Participation

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **15%**

Internal students are required to attend classes and actively participate in in-class discussions. External students are required to participate in the external discussions via iLearn whilst studying independently as instructed. All students need to participate in peer-reviews and weekly online discussions.

Active participation is assessed by a student's engagement in activities such as; discussions facilitated by the lecturer, contributions to online discussion forums, or general questions asked during classes and involvement in set activities. Participation is expected to be well considered and relevant to the unit of study.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions
- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner

Reading Game

Due: **Weekly**

Weighting: **20%**

This task is to enhance your analytical interpretation of the scholarly articles in the JPS124 reading list, in a collaborative way. It requires you to create at least one multiple choice question on one article and respond to at least five questions provided by other students in the game. You may select any articles from the reading list, however, you will not be allowed to use same articles more than once. This is a weekly game which will be reset at twelve at Sunday night. The instruction will be provided in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Performing Japan's Pop Culture

Due: **September 30**

Weighting: **25%**

This group presentation involves the creation of a short video capturing your chosen creative example of Japan's Pop Culture (e.g., manga, anime, drama, skit, cosplay, music or drawing) in which you also analytically discuss your creation/performance. Your presentation should be audio recorded and uploaded via VoiceThread. You are also required to complete the self assessment. The instruction and marking criteria will be provided in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Essay Presentation

Due: **W13**

Weighting: **5%**

This task requires you to give a 2-minute presentation on your essay, using only one Powerpoint slide.

Internal students will complete this task in class and External students will make a short video and submitted VoiceThread. The instruction and marking criteria will be provided in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and

critical opinions both orally and in writing

- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Essay

Due: **November 11**

Weighting: **35%**

This task requires you to select:

1. one genre or topic of Japanese contemporary culture production/industry (e.g., manga, anime, games, character goods, fashion, music) and write a 1500 word essay analytically discussing the future of the focused culture production; OR
2. one or two narrative(s) from Japanese manga, anime, films, TV dramas, games and write a 1500 word essay analytically discussing the relevancy of the work(s) for non-Japanese readers/audiences.

The essay should be fully referenced and include appropriate examples and scholarly references, as instructed. Further instructions and marking criteria will be provided in iLearn.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner
- search for academic references or other relevant materials
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Delivery and Resources

No textbook is required for this unit. A comprehensive list of weekly essential and further readings (with links) will be found in iLearn.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

Online Unit (iLearn)

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

Is my unit in iLearn?: <http://help.ilearn.mq.edu.au/unitsonline/> 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.

For students attending classes on campus we strongly encourage that you bring along your own laptop computer, ready to work with activities in your online unit. The preferred operating system is Windows 10.

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.

Please contact your course convenor **before** the end of **Week 1** if you do not have a suitable laptop (or tablet) for in-class use.

- For central technical support go to: 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>

Unit Schedule

The unit schedule will be provided in iLearn.

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 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Undergraduate students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/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/p) (<https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/p>

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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 shown in *iLearn*, 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.

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 improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and 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.

Student Enquiries

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

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.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We

want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner

Assessment tasks

- Performing Japan's Pop Culture
- Essay

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions
- search for academic references or other relevant materials
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where

relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions
- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner
- search for academic references or other relevant materials

Assessment tasks

- Unit Participation
- Reading Game
- Performing Japan's Pop Culture
- Essay Presentation
- Essay

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- read and interpret academic materials to build understanding of Japanese popular culture related concepts and/or Japanese popular culture productions

- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner
- search for academic references or other relevant materials

Assessment tasks

- Unit Participation
- Reading Game
- Essay Presentation
- Essay

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner
- search for academic references or other relevant materials
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Assessment tasks

- Performing Japan's Pop Culture
- Essay

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner

Assessment tasks

- Unit Participation
- Reading Game
- Performing Japan's Pop Culture
- Essay Presentation
- Essay

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- develop an insight into the expressive power of Japanese popular culture, and analyse their cultural, social and political significance
- develop an understanding of Japanese popular culture production
- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Assessment tasks

- Unit Participation
- Essay

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- actively engage with other students and teaching staff and express your ideas and critical opinions both orally and in writing
- develop and articulate your original views on Japanese popular culture related topics in a clear, analytical and cohesive manner
- search for academic references or other relevant materials
- plan, revise and submit assignments according to schedule and instructions.

Assessment tasks

- Unit Participation
- Performing Japan's Pop Culture
- Essay