

Minorities and Sexualities in Modern Japan

Anthropology 256b

Course Schedule: MW(F) 10:30 am ~ 11:20 am
Classroom: WLH 113
Course WWW: <http://www.disabilitystudies.jp/nakamura>
Course Readings: <https://classesv2.yale.edu/>
Professor: Karen Nakamura (karen.nakamura@yale.edu)
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30 – 2:30 or by appointment
Office: 121 Whitney, Room 209
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Course Description:

Japan is often imagined as a homogeneous nation. Not only are many of its citizens convinced of this charade, but most of the world as well. In 1980, the government even submitted a report to the UN stating that there were no ethnic, linguistic, or religious minorities in Japan. This of course, conveniently overlooked the resident Korean community, former outcaste *Burakumin*, aboriginal *Ainu*, nascent gay and lesbian activists, among others. Building pressure for many decades, minority politics have burst on the scene in the past several years, shattering the seemingly calm veneer of Japanese society.

This course examines minority politics in Japan from two related perspectives. The first, asks a structural question: What historical, social, or cultural constraints have led to the particular social protest forms and types of minority identity we see in Japan today? The second, comparative frame is more introspective: How does exploring the Japanese case help us to understand identity politics in the U.S. as being the result of similar but differing factors? We will be borrowing from contemporary sociological, linguistic, and anthropological theory in order to answer these questions, and others that will arise in the course of our investigations.

Course Requirements:

An introductory Japan Studies course is recommended but not required. You can either approach this class as an Anthropology course on identity politics and modern social movement theory; or as an Asian studies course on the modern history of Japan. Grading will be based on class participation, attendance at film showings and guest lectures, and a final term paper, which will require outside research on your part.

Assignments:

- *Course participation:* As a member of a class, you will be expected to participate fully each week. That means doing the readings and coming to class prepared to discuss the material. You certainly aren't expected to have any answers or come to any earthshattering conclusions, but the material should be bringing up questions and creating links and networks of queries in your mind to other topics. 10%
- *Position Papers:* You will be assigned to write three short (5-7 page) position papers during the course of the semester. Details will be provided before they are due, but in general you will be expected to integrate the readings to formulate a cogent argument. No outside research is expected, although you are welcome to bring in external material. 30%
- *Final Integrative Research Paper:* At the end of the semester, you'll be expected to hand in a 15-20 page integrative research paper. *Integrative research* means that you will be expected to integrate knowledge that you learned in this class with outside library research. You are encouraged to look at your short position papers and use them as scaffolding in building your argument. A full bibliography is required. 40%
- *Pop Quizzes.* Random short-answer and multiple-choice quizzes through the semester. There are no make-ups for pop-quizzes but the lowest score will be dropped when averaging them. 20%

Required Books (Available at Labyrinth Bookstore):

- Weiner, Michael (ed.) *Japan's minorities: the illusion of homogeneity*. New York: Routledge. ISBN 0415152186. 256pp. \$25
- Lie, John (2004). *Multiethnic Japan*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. \$20.95.
- Izumo, Marou and Claire Maree (2000). *Love upon the chopping board*. North Melbourne, Vic.: Spinifex. \$14.95
- McLelland, Mark J. (2000). *Male homosexuality in modern Japan: cultural myths and social realities*. Richmond: Curzon.

Reading Schedule

Introduction to Minorities in Japan

Week 1.0: January 17 (Wednesday)

- Hand out syllabi
- Course requirements and workload
- Q&A

Week 1.5: Jan 19 (Friday): Introduction to Japan's Minorities

Weiner, Michael. Introduction to *Japan's minorities: the illusion of homogeneity*. New York: Routledge. ISBN 0415152186. 1997. Pp 1-16. **Required text.**

© Anderson, Benedict. Introduction to *Imagined communities: reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism*. London: Verso. ISBN 0-86091-546-8 (pbk). Pp1-7. 1991.

The 'Native' Japanese: Ainu

Week 2.0: Jan 22 (Mon)

Siddle, Richard. Ainu: Japan's indigenous people. In *Japan's minorities: the illusion of homogeneity*. M. Weiner, ed. pp. 17-49. New York: Routledge. 1997. **Required text.**

© Suzuki, David and Keibo Oiwa. Chapter 5: The Original People. From *The Other Japan*. Pp 91-125. Golden CO: Fulcrum Publishing. 1999.

Week 2.3: Jan 24 (Wed)

© Yoshino, Kosaku Culturalism, racialism, and internationalism in the discourse on Japanese identity. In *Making majorities: constituting the nation in Japan, Korea, China, Malaysia, Fiji, Turkey, and the United States*. D. C. Gladney, ed. pp. 13-30. Stanford: Stanford University Press. 1998.

© Katayama, Kazumichi. The Japanese as an Asia-Pacific Population. In *Multicultural Japan: palaeolithic to post-modern*. Denoon, D. and G. McCormack, Eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp 19-31. 1996.

The Native American Case

Week 3.0: Jan 29

© Robbins, Rebecca L. Self-determination and subordination: the past, present, and future of American Indian governance. In *The State of Native America : genocide, colonization, and resistance*. M. A. Jaimes, ed. pp. 87-121. Boston: South End Press. 1992.

© Bahr, Howard M., Bruce A. Chadwick, and Robert C. Day. A selection from *Native Americans today: sociological perspectives*. New York,: Harper & Row. 1972.

Burakumin: Separate and Equal? Equal and Equal?

Week 3.3 Jan 31 (Wed)

- © Reber, Emily. Buraku Mondai in Japan: Historical and Modern Perspectives and Directions for the Future. *Harvard Human Rights Journal* 12(Spring 1999). Pp 297-359.
- © Ooms, Herman. Status and state racism: from Kawata to Eta. Chapter 5 in *Tokugawa village practice : class, status, power, law*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1996. Pp. 243-312.

Week 4.0 Feb 5

- © Upham, Frank K. Instrumental violence and the struggle for Buraku liberation. In *Law and social change in postwar Japan*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. 1987. Pp 78-123.
- Neary, Ian. Burakumin in contemporary Japan. In *Japan's minorities: the illusion of homogeneity*. New York: Routledge. 1997. Pp 79-108. **Required text.**

Week 4.3 Feb 7

- © hooks, bell. Keeping it close. In *Talking back: thinking feminist, thinking black*. Boston, MA, South End Press. 1989.
- © Ogbu, John. Voluntary and involuntary minorities: a cultural-ecological theory of school performance with some implications for education. *Anthropology and Education Quarterly* 29(2): 155-188. 1998.

Week 5.0 (Feb 12)

Position Paper #1 Due: Ainu, Burakumin, and Race

Koreans in Japan

Week 5.0: Feb 12

- © Tsurushima, Setsure. Human rights issues and the status of Burakumin and Koreans in Japan. In *Institutions for change in Japanese society*. G. A. DeVos, ed. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies University of California. Pp 83-113. 1984.
- © Yoneyama, Lisa. Chapter 5: Ethnic and Colonial Memories from *Hiroshima traces: time, space, and the dialectics of memory*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 0520085868 (alk. paper). Pp 151-186. 1999.

Week 5.3: Feb 14

- © Iwasawa, Y. (1986). "Legal Treatment of Koreans in Japan: The Impact of International Human Rights Law on Japanese Law." Human rights quarterly 8(2): 131-179.
- © Motani, Y. Towards a More Just Educational Policy for Minorities in Japan: The Case of Korean Ethnic Schools. *Comparative Education* 38(2): 225-237. 2002.
- © Okano, K. (1997). "Third-generation Korean's entry into the workforce in Japan." Anthropology and education quarterly 28(4): 524-549.

Brazil Nikkeijin

Week 6.0: Feb 19

- Sellek, Yoko. *Nikkeijin: the phenomenon of return migration*. In *Japan's minorities: the illusion of homogeneity*. M. Weiner, ed. pp. 178-210. New York: Routledge. 1997.
- © Hingwan, K.. Identity, otherness and migrant labour in Japan. Case studies on human rights in Japan. R. Goodman and I. Neary. Richmond, Surrey, Japan Library: 51-75. 1996.
 - © Tsuda, Takeyuki. Acting Brazilian in Japan: ethnic resistance among return migrants. *Ethnology* 39(1):55-71. 2000.

Week 6.3: Feb 21

- © Endoh, Toake. Shedding the unwanted: Japan's emigration policy. JPRI Working Paper #72. October 2000.
- © Immigration Policy Center. 2004. Economic Growth & Immigration.
- © Menchaca, Martha. "Chicano Indianism: A Historical Account of Racial Repression in the United States." American Ethnologist, 20(3): 583-603. 1993.

Introduction to Japanese Sexuality

Week 7.0: Feb 26

© Pflugfelder, Gregory M. Introduction 1 from *Cartographies of desire: male-male sexuality in Japanese discourse 1600-1950*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 0-520-20909-5 (cloth). 1999.

© Nakamura, Karen. "The Chrysanthemum and the Queer: Ethnographic and Historical Perspectives on Sexuality in Japan" *Journal of Homosexuality*. Volume 52 Issue 3/4. 2006

Week 7.3: Feb 28

Movie: *Osaka Story*

Week 8.0 (Mar 5)

Position Paper #2 Due: Koreans and Nikkeijin

Research Paper Topics

Week 8.0: Mar 5

Discussion

Week 8.3: Mar 7

Discussion

SPRING BREAK (March 10-24)

Read over break: *Male Homosexuality in Modern Japan*.

Week 9.0

Research Paper Proposals and List of Resources Due

Week 9.0 (Mar 26)

© Lunsing, W. M. (1999). Life on Mars: love and sex in fieldwork on sexuality and gender in urban Japan. *Sex, sexuality and the anthropologist*. F. Markowitz and M. Ashkenazi. Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press: 175-195.

© Lunsing, Wim Marinus. Lesbian and gay movements: between hard and soft, In *Soziale*

Bewegungen in Japan. Vol. 128. C. Derichs and A. Osiandereds. pp. 279-310. Hamburg: Gesellschaft für natur- und Volkerkunde Ostasiens e. V.; ISBN 3928463632. 1998.

Women's Sexuality

Week 9.3: Mar 28

- © Anonymous. A married woman. In *Queer Japan: personal stories of Japanese lesbians, gays, transsexuals, and bisexuals*. B. Summerhawk, C. McMahonill, and D. McDonald, eds. Norwich, Vt.: New Victoria Publishers. pp. 97-107. 1998. **Reserve.** ✓
- © Nakamura, Karen, and Hisako Matsuo. Female masculinity and fantasy spaces: transcending genders in the Takarazuka theatre. In *Men and Masculinities in Modern Japan: Beyond the Urban Salaryman Model*. J. E. Roberson and N. Suzukieds. New York: Routledge. 2002.

Week 10.0: April 2

- Izumo, Marou and Claire Maree (2000). *Love upon the chopping board*. North Melbourne, Vic.: Spinifex. \$14.95

Week 10.3: April 4

- © Treat, John Whittier. Yoshimoto Banana writes home: shôjo culture and the nostalgic subject. *Journal of Japanese Studies* 19(2):353-388. 1996. **Classes V2.**

Week 11.0 (Apr 10)

Position Paper #3 Due: Sexuality and Genders

Filipinas in Japan

Week 11.0: April 9

© Suzuki, Nobue. Tripartite desires: Filipina-Japanese marriages and fantasies of transnational traversal. 2005. **Classes V2.**

© Matsui, Yayori. The plight of Asian migrant women working in Japan's sex industry. In Japanese women: new feminist perspectives on the past, present, and future. Fujimura-Fanselow and A. Kameda, eds. Pp. 309-319. New York: The Feminist Press. **Classes V2.**

© Buckley, Sandra. Interview with Matsui Yayori. In *Broken silence : voices of Japanese feminism*. Berkeley: University of California Press. **Classes V2.**

Psychiatric Disabilities in Japan

Week 12.0: April 16

Bethel: Community and Schizophrenia in Northern Japan.

Final Presentations

Week 13.0 (Apr 23)

Final Presentations

Week 13.3 (Apr 25)

Final Presentations

May 8th 9am

Integrative Research Papers Due (12-15 pages)

END OF THE SEMESTER

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER BREAK