

Osaka Gakuin University 2023-2024 Fall Semester

(ONLINE) Japanese Views of Asia, Asian Views of Japan

Instructor :

Torsten Weber
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Lesson: Tue 15:30~17:15, Thu 17:30-19:15
Office Hours : By appointment
Subject code: 1044

Course Description:

The objective of this course is to study how 'Asia' has been imagined and constructed by Japanese and how 'Japan' has been imagined and constructed in different parts of Asia between the late 19th century and today. By examining changes and continuities in different views and typologies of mutual perceptions in modern history, students will learn how images of the Self and the Other are inter-related and often serve as an instrument for the justification of certain social, economic, or diplomatic policies. Through a combination of readings (home, in-class), lectures, and discussions, we will approach the broader issue of Japanese views of Asia and Asian views of Japan. In addition, readings on case studies will introduce and discuss well-known and lesser-known examples of such mutual perceptions.

Resources

Readings will be provided via E-learning platform

Note: Other necessary hand-outs will be provided for each class

Evaluation

- Class Attendance/ Multiple Assignments (30%)
- An Individual or Group Presentation(s) (30%)
- Final examination (40%)

Note: Evaluation method may change at the instructor's discretion depending on the class size and other factors.

Notes:

- class conducted entirely in English; combination of readings (home, in-class), lectures, and in-class discussions
- sufficient English language ability required (speaking, reading, and writing)
- Three absences will result in not being evaluated for this course. Also leaving early or coming late without valid reason will be counted as absence. Please contact instructor via email in the case of a foreseeable absence.

Course Schedule:

Week 01: Introduction to the course: key issues and themes
Week 02: Geography, culture, politics
Week 03: Asianism and Japanese Orientalism
Week 04: Japan-China Relations: Historical Perspectives I
Week 05: Japan-China Relations: Historical Perspectives II
Week 06: Japan-China Relations: Present & Future
Week 07: Korean-Japanese Relations: Historical Perspectives
Week 08: Korean-Japanese Relations: Present & Future
Week 09: Popular Culture
Week 10: Apologies, Forgiving, and Reconciliation I
Week 11: Apologies, Forgiving, and Reconciliation II
Week 12: Repetition & Outlook
Week 13: Final Examination

Note: Course contents and schedule are subject to change depending on the class size and the discretion of the teacher.