CIEE Tokyo, Japan

Course title: Analysis of Popular Culture in Japanese Society
Course code: EAST 3001 TOJA
Programs offering course: Summer Japanese Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Summer 2020

Course Description
This course will provide students with the conceptual tools, which will allow for a careful analysis of popular culture in Japanese society. Students will be provided with opportunities to engage with the imagination, emotions, aesthetics, and technologies within the various facets of Japanese popular culture. All of which can be found in the various forms of media such as music, film, literature, and fashion. Students will also have the opportunity to reflect and analyze their experiences of Japanese popular culture based on dialogic, reflective, and cooperative learning.

Learning Objectives
By completing this course, students will:

- Cultivate a critical understanding of the worldwide phenomenon that is Japanese Popular Culture and its pervasiveness in Japanese society and beyond
- Learn and apply methodologies to analyze the role of popular culture within a society
- Develop collaboration and communication skills for students through group projects and oral presentations
- Critically analyze the various topics of the course and be able to write about it succinctly

Course Prerequisites
Successful completion of an introductory level sociology, anthropology, contemporary studies or East Asian studies course is recommended.

Methods of Instruction
The course will be taught using lectures, seminars, case study discussions and group presentations. There will also be significant research activities outside the classroom. Classroom activities will involve group work and critical discussion.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, and local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade
1. Class Presentation 10%
2. Term Paper 20%
3. Reflection Papers 20%
4. Final Exam 30%
5. Class Participation 20%

TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Class Presentation
Students will be expected to collaborate and organize class presentations based on observations and research conducted in and outside of class.
Term Paper

The term paper of at least 2000 words will be presented as part of the final grade, based on observations and research conducted both in and outside class. This may or may not be associated with the class presentation. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and all sources must be cited correctly.

Reflection Papers

Will be an ongoing activity based on the lectures, activities, and projects conducted in and outside the classroom. Students will be required to submit four 375 word essays.

Final Exam

Closed books final exam that covers topics covered throughout the course.

Class Participation

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class: 1.1 Course overview; assign students into groups

Week 2
Class: 2.1 Imagining the World and Imaginary Worlds


Class: 2.2 Imagining the World and Imaginary Worlds


Class: 2.3 Solitary and Social Pursuits of Otaku Fandom


Class: 2.4 Solitary and Social Pursuits of Otaku Fandom

Fieldtrip to a site relevant to otaku tourism

Reflection Paper 1 due (Imagining the World and Imaginary Worlds)

Week 3
Class: 3.1 Solitary and Social Pursuits of Otaku Fandom


Class: 3.2 Sensory-Emotional-Affective Interactions


Class: 3.3 Sensory-Emotional-Affective Interactions

Fieldtrip to a site relevant to sensory-emotional-affective interaction and edutainment

Reflection Paper 2 due (On-stage and Off-stage)

Week 4
**Class: 4.1**  Sensory-Emotional-Affective Interactions


**Class: 4.2**  Military-Creative Industrial Complex


**Class: 4.3**  Military-Creative Industrial Complex

Watch Gate, Episode 1 – The Self-Defense Force Goes To Another World  
Episode 2 – The Two Armies  
Episode 3 – Fire Dragon

**Week 5**

**Class: 5.1**  Military-Creative Industry Complex

Reflection Paper 3 due (Sensory-Emotional-Affective Interactions)

**Class: 5.2**  Group presentation (Imagining the World and Imaginary Worlds)

**Class: 5.3**  Group presentation (Solitary and Social Pursuits of Otaku Fandom)

Reflection Paper 4 due (Politics and Poetics of the Military-Entertainment Complex)

**Week 6**

**Class: 6.1**  Group presentation (Sensory-Emotional-Affective Interactions)

**Class: 6.2**  Group presentation (Military-Creative Industrial Complex)

**Class: 6.3**  Final Exam

Term Paper due

**Course Materials**

**Readings**


