

Minorities, migration and globalization in contemporary Japan

Lecturer: Miloš DEBNÁR

Faculty of Social Studies, Doshisha University

Office: Keisuikan #325 (Doshisha Shinmachi Campus)

Email: mdebnar@mail.doshisha.ac.jp

Course description:

This course explores some of the aspects of Japanese society as it engages in the process of globalization, by discussing and analyzing issues concerning minorities and migration in Japan. The core of the course will be devoted to contemporary migration and major national, ethnic and/or racial minorities in Japan ranging from the 'ethnic' migration of *Nikkei* Brazilians, through 'Asian brides' or women entertainers from the Philippines, to high-skilled workers or international students. At the same time, we will also address these issues in the wider context of the modern history of Japan (i.e. discuss major historical minorities in the Japanese society such as *burakumin*, Okinawans and *Zainichi*). In order to understand the various meanings and dimensions of Japan's engagement in globalization, in addition to immigration we will also include discussions of emigration from Japan as well.

Class requirements

Attendance and short presentations:

Each class will consist of a lecture that will be followed by a summary and analysis of the reading assignment and student led discussion. All students are required to complete readings before the class. One student (or group) each week will present a short summary and analysis of the reading with critical comments and prepare questions for discussion.

Final presentation:

During the course, students will be divided into small groups that will prepare presentations on topics discussed during the course (e.g. case studies on minorities, small surveys or analysis of observations made during their stay in Japan). Each presentation will be 15-20 minutes long and will be followed by a short discussion. All presentations will be presented during weeks 12 and 13.

Final paper:

Students are required to submit final paper utilizing concepts, ideas and data discussed during the classes. Papers can also build on material and ideas used for group presentations, yet papers will be submitted individually and should reflect comments from discussion after the presentations.

Evaluation:

1. Attendance and class participation	20%
2. Reading summaries	20%
3. Presentation	30%
4. Paper	30%

Schedule (subject to change depending on class size and students' interest)

Week 1 (January 13 and 15)

Topic(s): General introduction to the problematics of migration and globalization in Japan

Reading assignment: none

Week 2 (January 20 and 22)

Topic(s): Historical minorities in Japan, focusing on Japan's 'internal others' and pre-war cases of international migration

Reading assignment: 1. Oguma, E., 2014, *The Boundaries of 'the Japanese': Okinawa 1818-1972, Inclusion and Exclusion*, Introduction: pp. 1–15

2. Yamawaki K., 2003, "Foreign workers in Japan: a historical perspective", in Douglass, M. & G.S. Roberts, *Japan and Global Migration: Foreign Workers and the Advent of a Multicultural Society*, pp. 38–51

Week 3 (January 27 and 29)

Topic(s): Historical minorities – postwar and contemporary conditions of Zainichi Koreans

Reading assignment: 1. Chapman, D., 2009, *Zainichi Korean Identity and Ethnicity*, Chapter 4: 60-83

2. Fukuoka, Y., 2000, *Lives of Young Koreans in Japan*, Chapter 3: pp. 42–60

Week 4 (February 3 and 5)

Topic(s): Towards the immigration: overview of the increasing immigration and its main factors, the case of Nikkei Brazilians

Reading assignment: 1. Ogawa, N., 2011, "Population aging and immigration in Japan", *Asia and Pacific Migration Journal*, 20:2, pp. 133-167
2. Tsuda, T., 2003, *Strangers in the ethnic homeland*, Chapter 2: pp. 103 - 154

Week 5 (February 10)

Topic(s): "Asian brides" and increase in the international marriages in Japan

Reading assignment: 1. To be determined

Week 6 (February 17 and 19)

Topic(s): High-skilled migrants and international students in Japan

Reading assignment: 1. Oishi, N., 2012, "The Limits of Immigration Policies: The Challenges of Highly Skilled Migration in Japan", *American Behavioral Scientist*, 56:8, pp. 1080-1100
2. Liu-Farrer, G., 2009, "Educationally channeled international labor mobility: contemporary student migration from China to Japan", *International Migration Review*, 43(1): pp. 178-204

Week 7 (February 24 and 26)

Topic(s): Other migrations and the case of Westerners in Japan

Reading assignment: 1. Komisarof, A., 2012, *At Home Abroad: The Contemporary Western Experience in Japan*, Introduction: pp. 5 - 14
2. To be determined

Week 8 (March 9 and 11)

Topic(s): Integration of the migrants and the case of white privilege in Japan

Reading assignment: 1. To be determined

2. Lan, P-C., 2011, "White privilege, language capital and cultural ghettoization: Western high-skilled migrants in Taiwan", *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 37(10): pp. 1669-1693

Week 9 (March 16 and 18)

Topic(s): The other side of the integration of privileged groups and *tabunka kyosei*

Reading assignment: 1. Willis, D.B., 2008, "Dejima: Creolization and Enclaves of Difference in Transnational Japan" in D. B. Willis and S. Murphy-Shigematsu eds. *Transcultural Japan*, pp. 239-263
2. to be determined

Week 10 (March 23 and 25)

Topic(s): Race, racism, nationalism and migration to Japan

Reading assignment: 1. Takezawa, Y. 2011, *Racial Representations in Asia*, Introduction: pp. 7-19

2. Burgess, C., 2012, "Celebrating 'multicultural Japan': writings on 'minorities' and the discourse on 'difference'", in Illes T. And Matanle, *Researching Twenty-First Century Japan: New Directions and Approaches for the Electronic Age*, pp. 241-264

Week 11 (March 30 and April 1)

Topic(s): Japan's outmigration overview and migration of Japanese women

Reading assignment: 1. J. Eades, T. Gill and H. Befu, 2001, *Globalization and social change in contemporary Japan*, Chapter 1: pp. 17 - 40

2. Kelsky, K., 2001, *Women on the Verge*, Introduction: pp. 1 - 34

Week 12 (April 6 and 8)

Topic(s): Culture, lifestyle and student migrations from Japan and student presentations

Reading assignment: 1. Kawashima, K., "Japanese working holiday makers in Australia and their relationship to the Japanese labour market: before and after", *Asian Studies Review*, 34(3): pp. 267-286

2. none

Week 13 (April 13 and 15)

Topic(s): Student presentations and wrap up

Reading assignment: none

Texts

All journal articles and book chapters required for reading will be distributed as paper copies or PDFs.