

## **Minorities, migration and globalization in contemporary Japan**

Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:40-6:10 p.m.

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### **Objectives and content:**

Demographic prognosis and increasing globalization of Japan clearly suggest that accepting higher number of immigrants should be one of priorities for policy makers. While Japan and its political elites are strongly opposed to open door policy especially towards low-skilled migrants a lot has changed since 1990s and the numbers of foreign nationals living in Japan are constantly increasing. What are the factors behind this increase? Where these migrants come from and how are they being integrated into Japanese society? What are the factors inhibiting more open door policies and integration? What are the problems migrants face in Japan?

The course will cover a relatively wide array of issues related to migration; we will deal with historical minorities, contemporary migration in various forms as well as emigration from Japan. Through discussion of these topics, this course aims to provide understanding of migration in the wider context of the Japanese society and its changes. This should illustrate various meanings of Japan for people who choose it as their destination and those who leave it behind in search for better lives.

### **Format**

Regular class meetings will consist of lecture, short reading summary and discussions. We will also have a guest lecture, three fieldtrips, guest talk and a film screening.

### **Class requirements and grading**

#### Attendance and class participation:

Active participation and regular attendance of class meetings and fieldtrips is required for completing the course. Students are required to come prepared for classes and active participation in class and discussion are essential part of the course. Unexcused absences will lower your final grade.

#### Critical reading summary:

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) will present a short summary and analysis of the reading with critical comments and prepare questions for discussion.

#### Short essays:

There will be two short essay assignments regarding two of the additional activities (guest talk, film, screening and fieldtrips). Essays will be about 3 pages long.

#### 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 (4-5 pages in length) 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	15%
2. Reading summaries	15%
3. Short essays	15%
4. Presentation	25%
5. Paper	30%

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as misrepresenting the work of others (whether published or not) as your own. It may be inadvertent or intentional. Any facts, statistics, quotations, or paraphrasing of any information that is not common knowledge, should be cited.

Late assignment submission: Failing to submit class assignment (short essays, final paper) or missing your turn in presentation without prior consultation and eligible cause will lower your grade by one letter (e.g. from A to B).

Accommodating Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a disability and have a DS-certified 'Accommodation Letter' please see the KCJS resident director to confirm your accommodation needs. If you believe that you have a disability that requires accommodation, you can contact your home school's Disability Services or Columbia's Disability Services at [disability@columbia.edu](mailto:disability@columbia.edu). The Office of Global Programs (OGP) can also assist you to connect with Columbia's Disability Services.

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

**Week 1** (January 11)

Topic(s): General introduction

Reading assignment: none

**Week 2** (January 16 and 18)

Topic(s): Historical minorities in Japan

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 23 and 25)

Topic(s): Historical minorities today

Reading assignment/content:

1. Fukuoka, Y., 2000, *Lives of Young Koreans in Japan*, Chapter 3: pp. 42-60
2. Fieldtrip 1 – historical minorities

**Week 4** (January 30 and February 1)

Topics: Contemporary migration – introduction

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 6 and 8)

Topic(s): International marriages, high-skilled migrants

Reading assignment:

1. Piper, N., 1997, "International Marriage in Japan: 'Race' and 'Gender' perspectives", *Gender, Place & Culture*, 4:3, pp. 321-338
2. Oishi, N., 2012, "The Limits of Immigration Policies: The Challenges of Highly Skilled Migration in Japan", *American Behavioral Scientist*, 56:8, pp. 1080-1100

### **Week 6** (February 13 and 15)

Topic(s): International students, other forms of migration

Reading assignment:

1. Liu-Farrer, G., 2009, "Educationally channeled international labor mobility: contemporary student migration from China to Japan", *International Migration Review*, 43:1, pp. 178-204
2. Komisarof, A., 2012, *At Home Abroad: The Contemporary Western Experience in Japan*, Introduction: pp. 5 - 14

### **Week 7** (February 20 and 22)

Topic(s): Integration - introduction

Content:

1. Living in Japan – guest talk/discussion
2. Film screening: Hafu (in-class)

### **Week 8** (March 6 and 8)

Topic(s): Integration of the migrants and *tabunka kyosei*

Reading assignment:

1. Takezawa, Y., 2008, "The Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and town-making towards multiculturalism", in Graburn, Ertl and Tierney eds. *Multiculturalism in the new Japan: Crossing the boundaries within*, pp. 32-42
2. Russell, J. G., 2008, "The other other", in Weiner, M. ed., *Japan's minorities: The illusion of homogeneity*, pp. 84-115

### **Week 9** (March 13 and 15)

Topic(s): Multiculturalism, essentialism and race

Reading assignment:

1. 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
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 10** (March 20 and 22)

Topic(s): Multiculturalism and emigration

Reading assignments/content:

3. Fieldtrip 2 – integration/multiculturalism
4. J. Eades, T. Gill and H. Befu, 2001, *Globalization and social change in contemporary Japan*, Chapter 1: pp. 17 – 40

### **Week 11** (March 27 and 29)

Topic(s): Japan's outmigration

Reading assignment:

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

**Week 12** (April 3 and 5)

Content:

1. Fieldtrip 3 – emigration
2. Final student presentations

**Week 13** (April 10 and 12)

Content:

1. Final student presentations
2. Wrap-up

**Fieldtrips:**

There are three fieldtrips planned for this course. The exact dates will be decided depending on the destination and upon discussing possible schedule conflicts with students in January. Destinations will include some of the following places: Osaka (Museum of Human Rights and Korean Town), Kobe (Japanese Overseas Migration Museum and others), Korean School in Kyoto, Buraku/Ainu fieldtrip to Osaka.

**Study materials/readings:**

Copies of the readings (book chapters & articles) will be made available in pdf format by the professor. Reserve copies of the books listed in the syllabi will also be available in the KCJS office.