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James Hall 125
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Course description

This course will examine Japan's geographical and environmental setting, internal spatial differentiation, distinctive cultural geographic patterns, and population and settlement characteristics. It fulfills both GEN ED 5 and Writing Intensive requirements.

Texts and materials

- ☀ Joy Hendry. *Understanding Japanese Society*. 3rd edition. New York: Routledge, 2003. [used copies of 2nd (1995) edition acceptable]
- ☀ James Mak, Shyam Sunder, Shigeyuki Abe, and Kazuhiro Igawa (eds). *Japan: Why it Works, Why it Doesn't. Economics in Everyday Life*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1998. The full text of this book is available free of charge as an eBook through the UNH library catalog.
- ☀ Completed biographical form.

Blackboard

Vital materials for this course, including supplementary readings, announcements, lecture outlines, lecture review questions, and online discussion forums, are available electronically on Blackboard. To access Blackboard (<http://blackboard.unh.edu>) you will need a user name and password

Office hours

My office hours in James Hall 125 are on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:30-10:30 a.m., 3:30-4:30 p.m., and by appointment. I am also available at all times by phone and e-mail, so please don't hesitate to call me or e-mail me if you have a question about anything or would like to discuss something.

Examinations

There will be three non-cumulative tests. These have been set for:

- ☀ Thursday October 4th
- ☀ Thursday November 8th
- ☀ Thursday December 20th 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Each test will be worth 25% of your final grade.

Reaction papers

The remaining 25% of your grade will be based on six brief papers responding to the assigned reading. The papers should both summarize the reading and describe your reaction to what you have read: thoughts, impressions, ideas, what you found interesting or striking, questions, comparisons, etc. Requirements:

- No more than four pages
- Double-spaced in 12 pt font
- 1.5 inch left margin and 1 inch remaining margins
- Paginated
- The papers must reach me during class on the due date, or you will not receive credit. No excuses! We leave aside time on the due dates to discuss the reading.

In addition to the readings assigned from the two books, I will post folders of required supplementary reading on Blackboard under Assignments. These short, mostly newspaper, articles will supplement the textbooks or lecture material. Your reaction papers should respond to these readings also.

Course calendar

All important dates and deadlines are listed on the Course Calendar document. Please refer to it often!

Lecture outline

1. Geographic setting
 - a. Location
 - b. Size
 - c. Population distribution
2. Physical geography
 - a. Plate tectonic theory
 - b. Volcanoes
 - c. Landforms: mountains, plains, rivers, and coastlines
 - d. Earthquakes
 - e. Kobe quake
 - f. Climate
3. Population
 - a. Historical patterns
 - b. Modern growth
 - c. Birth control and abortion
 - d. Problems of an aging society
 - e. Immigration
4. Language
5. Minorities
 - a. Koreans
 - b. Burakumin
 - c. Ainu

6. Religion
 - a. Shinto
 - b. Buddhism
7. Historical development
 - a. Tokugawa Japan
 - b. Meiji Restoration
 - c. Rise of militarism and its aftermath
 - d. Japan's postwar recovery and development
 - e. Japan in decline?
8. Country and city
 - a. Urbanization
 - b. Problems of the countryside Outline and reading