

EA/AY 277: Culture of Cuteness: Japanese Women

Time: Tues/Thurs: 1-2:15

Professor: Hideko Abe

Email: hnabe@colby.edu

Office Hours: By Appointment

Final Exam:

Place: LJ 212

Office: LJ 429 (Phone: 4414)

Course Description

This introductory course on Japanese women's lives investigates the historical diversity in the operations of gender in social and cultural life through an interdisciplinary approach drawing on anthropological and historical studies as well as popular cultures. Students examine shifting gender roles and relations with a special focus on (1) family system, (2) romantic love and sex; (3) sexuality; (4) etiquette and mischief; and (5) labor force. Some of the female figures we will meet include (1) performers and entertainers including *kabuki* actors, musicians, bar hostesses, *maiko*, and *geisha*; (2) writers and artists; (3) *shufu* (housewives); (4) *shōjo* (young women); (5) foreign workers; (6) *OL* (office ladies); (7) sexual minorities; (8) dancehall girls; (9) flying girls; (10) bus guides; (11) soldiers; (12) soccer players; and (13) Miss Japan. All readings are in English, but some concepts and technical terms are introduced in Japanese.

Requirement

1. Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion (10%): This is a seminar course, therefore a high level of participation in class discussion is expected.
2. Pop Quiz (15%): A short essay quiz is given at the beginning of the class which covers the required readings for the class discussion. If you miss a quiz due to your absence, you will lose the point for the quiz automatically. You are not given a make-up quiz.
4. Discussion Moderator (20%): Students take turns to act as a moderator or facilitator of the class discussion twice this semester (one before the mid-term and the other after the mid-term). As a facilitator, a student has to:
 - (1) read the chapter very carefully including notes;
 - (2) write a summary (what is about/major arguments/your criticism) of the chapter (a single space, 500 words, Calibri font=12);
 - (3) write 8 questions with your own answers (questions should not be more than three sentences;
 - (4) choose key concepts/terms and your answers;
 - (5) print out your questions only, make 15 copies and bring to the class (make sure you put your name, dates, the title of the chapter);
 - (6) by email, please send me (1) the summary with major arguments; (2) 8 questions (and answers), and key terms/concepts with your answers **by Sunday noon (for Tuesday discussion) and Tuesday noon (for Thursday discussion)**. If you are late one hour, you will lose 10% of the grade (2 hours, 20%, 3 hours, 30%...). If you are late more than 10 hours, you will lose the entire point (15%).
5. Research: Presentation (10%) and Annotated Bibliography (10%): Students choose a topic of their interest, related to *Lives of Japanese Women* and present their findings in class. The oral presentation lasts 10 minutes (including 2-minute-Q & A). Students are required to read a

minimum of 5 academic journal articles and/or book chapters (no magazines). Students also submit the annotated bibliography when you present your research. You have to submit your research plan (printed version) on **Nov. 10**. You should include; (1) the title of your research; (2) the list of all the book chapters and/or journal articles (Chicago style or MLA style); and (3) the goal of your research (what it is you want to find out). I will return the research plan with my comments (some might need to re-submit).

Grading

Attendance and Participation in Class Discussion: 10%

Pop Quiz: 15%

Discussion Moderator: 20%

Research: 15%

Mid-term Exam: 25%

Final Project/Exam: 15%

Required Textbooks

1. *Bad Girls of Japan* (2005), L. Miller and J. Bardsley (eds), Palgrave. **BGJ**
2. *Modern Girls on the Go: Gender, Mobility, and Labor in Japan* (2013), A. Freedman, L. Miller and C. Yano (eds). Stanford University Press.. **MG**
3. *Maiko Masquerade: Crafting Geisha Girlhood in Japan* (2020), J. Bardsley, U. of Hawaii. **MM**

Computer Policy

Students who want to use their laptop (or ipad) to make notes have to let me know in advance. This is a seminar style course, meaning heavy on discussion and I prefer that you don't use a computer for making notes. Checking emails or text messages either on computers or mobile phones is prohibited during the class. And if you are found doing it, you will lose 10 % from your final grade.

Academic Honesty & Consequences for Academic Dishonesty

Honesty, integrity, and personal responsibility are cornerstones of a Colby education and provide the foundation for scholarly inquiry, intellectual discourse, and an open and welcoming campus community. These values are articulated in the Colby Affirmation and are central to this course. Students are expected to demonstrate academic honesty in all aspects of this course.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to: plagiarism (including quoting sources without quotation marks around the borrowed words and a citation); presenting another's work as one's own; buying or attempting to buy papers or projects for a course; fabricating information or citations; knowingly assisting others in acts of academic dishonesty; violating clearly stated rules for taking an exam or completing homework; misrepresentations to faculty within the context of a course; and submitting the same work, including an essay that you wrote, in more than one course without the permission of instructors.

Religious Holidays and Other Events Observed by the College

Colby College is supportive of the religious practices of its students, faculty, and staff. The College is committed to ensuring that all students are able to observe their religious beliefs without academic penalty.

The College will enable any student to make up any course requirements scheduled during a religious holiday that is observed by that student. Students are expected to inform course instructors within two weeks of the beginning of the term of any religious observance that will conflict with coursework. The faculty member will then work with the student to find a reasonable accommodation that will allow the student to complete the academic work. In addition, no student will be required to participate in college events such as athletic commitments, lectures, or concerts on these holidays.