

## Temple University, Japan Campus

### Summer Intensive Course Descriptions

#### 2012

#### **Asian Studies 2000 | Special Topics in Asian Studies I: Rebuilding Japan: Social and Political Implications of the Great Tohoku Earthquake, Tsunami and Fukushima Nuclear Crisis on Japanese Society (3 credits)** *Cross-listed with Sociology 2130 (3 credits).*

The Great East Japan Earthquake and the subsequent tsunami and nuclear disaster in Fukushima have had a profound effect on Japanese society. While the nuclear crisis raised public health concerns internationally, as this immediate crisis has abated, Japan continues to deal with the social and economic implications of this unlikely series of events. As was the case in the post-war era and in the post-bubble economy, the earthquake has come to define an emerging paradigm of social change, with a rising wave of civic engagement among volunteers and NGOs, and the emergence of political activism in the anti-nuclear movement.

In the last decade, the rise of "Cool Japan" has brought increased interest in Japanese popular culture, serving as an impetus to international exchange. Now, in the wake of recent events, Japan is redefining itself domestically, as need-based concerns are taking priority over the transient appeal of pop culture fashion. Will the soft-power "values diplomacy" of popular culture which has brought Japan acclaim now be supplanted by a reconceived national identity, defined through economic crisis and political change? This course will address how the 3.11 Earthquake has impacted Japan, looking at how the Japanese government, public institutions and civil society have responded to the complex issues raised by this crisis and explore how Japan is being considered from abroad in light of these historic events.

Course taught by Kyle Cleveland

Class times: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:40pm-3:40pm

#### **Asian Studies 3000 | Special Topics in Asian Studies II: Japanese Popular Culture (3 credits)**

This course addresses the global attraction of Japanese popular culture, focusing on the inter-related fields of art, music, fashion and design. Students will critically consider the impact of mass media (manga, anime, music, film, TV, cybercultures and innovative modes of communication, such as social media) on Japanese society, and examine how Japanese pop culture has grown as a cultural industry to represent "Cool Japan" abroad. These topics are historically situated in the contemporary Japanese political context, examining how social networks develop and are expressed through performative subcultures, and are appropriated in the marketplace of consumer society.

Students are encouraged to reflect on their everyday experiences in Tokyo and to gain analytical perspectives into their experiences throughout the course. The course will include field trips to matsuri and sites of production such as anime studios, seminars with manga producers, and exploration of the underground economy of Otaku fan culture in Akihabara.

Course taught by Patrick Galbraith

Class times: Monday/Wednesday/Friday 10:20am-12:20pm

#### **Japanese 3010: Special Topics in Japanese II: Practical Japanese for Non-Majors (3 credits)**

This course will introduce students to "survival" Japanese by assisting them in developing some basic language skills. As a starter, students will be introduced to the two basic Japanese writing systems, Hiragana and Katakana. The course will also focus on pronunciation and useful and practical expressions in a real-life setting. "Survival" Japanese will help students learn how to communicate with native speakers as well as provide some tips on understanding Japanese people and culture. Field trips are mandatory in this class. *There are no language pre-requisites for this course.*

Course taught by Ryoko Osada

Class times: Tuesday/Thursday 11:10am-2:10pm