WORLD CULTURES: JAPAN  
V55 - 0507001 73872/Fall 2004  

Professor: Mitsuhiro Yoshimoto (my15@nyu.edu)  
Lecture: Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15 p.m.  
Classroom: SILV 206  
Office: 715 Broadway Room 307  
Office Hours: Tuesday 3:45-4:45 p.m. or by appointment  

Preceptors: Maggie Clinton (mec252@nyu.edu) and Osamu Nakano (on225@nyu.edu)  
Recitation Sections:  
- Monday 8:00-9:15 a.m., 145F 207  
- Monday 9:30-10:45 a.m., SILV 721  
- Friday 9:30-10:45 a.m., SILV 404  
- Friday 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., 25W4 C-4  

Course Description  
This course examines Japanese society since the end of World War Two through a study of popular culture. Topics include: war and its aftermath, nuclear apocalypse, the Cold War and economic recovery, consumer culture, gender and sexuality, technology and utopianism/dystopianism, nostalgia for the past, among others. The primary “texts” to be looked at are Japanese animation or so-called anime. Writings on popular culture, books and essays on history, short stories, and other audio-visual materials are used to supplement our viewing of anime and develop critical skills in cultural analysis.  

Course Requirements  
1) Attendance: Regular attendance in lectures and recitations is mandatory. If you are unable to attend lectures or recitations for compelling reasons such as serious medical problems or family emergency, please notify your professor or preceptors in a timely manner. You may be asked to submit medical certificates or other official documents.  

2) Readings: Students are expected to have the scheduled readings completed on time, and should be prepared to discuss them in recitation sections. Bring the readings to class with you.  

3) Two exams, midterm (Oct. 26) and final (Dec. 16). Make-up exams will not be given.  

4) Two papers, due Oct 12 & Nov 30 in class. Topics and specific instructions will be given in advance. Late paper will not be accepted.  

***No plagiarism will be tolerated. Any act of plagiarism will automatically result in a failing grade for the course, and will be reported to the University for further review and possible disciplinary action.
Grading
Attendance and participation 30%
Paper #1 10%
Paper #2 10%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 30%

✓ Required Books (available at NYU Bookstore)
--Yoshikuni Igarashi, Bodies of Memory (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000)

Other Required Reading Materials
1) on reserve at the library
--N. Katherine Hayles, How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999), Q335 .H394 1999
--Howard Seidensticker, Tokyo Rising: The City Since the Great Earthquake (New York: Knopf, 1990), DS896.64 .S43 1990

2) available online
Recitation: dealing with key ideas

--Toshiya Ueno, "Japanimation and Techno-Orientalism: Japan as the Sub-Empire of Signs." Available at http://www.city.yamagata.yamagata.jp/yidff/docbox/9/box9-1-c.html

To access the following texts, first, go to http://library.nyu.edu/collections/find_ejournals.html
Then, follow the instructions to download the articles.

Schedule
Introduction
Week 1
Sept 7 & 9 <Why Anime?>
SCREENING: Akira (Otomo Katsuhiro, 1988, 124 minutes)
READING:
--Susan Napier, Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke, chp 1 "Why Anime?" and chp 2 "Anime and Local/Global Identity," pp. 3-38.

Part 1: Technology

Week 2
Sept 14 & 16: Technology and the Body
SCREENING: The Ghost in the Shell (Mamoru Oshii, 1995, 82 minutes)
READING:
--Bolton, "From Wooden Cyborgs to Celluloid Souls"
--Brian Ruh, Stray Dog of Anime, pp. 119-140.

Week 3
Sept 21 & 23: Techno-orientalism
READING:
--Ueno, “Japanimation and Techno-Orientalism: Japan as the Sub-Empire of Signs”

Part 2: History of Postwar Japan as Seen Through Anime
Week 4
Sept 28 & 30: The Legacy of the Postwar
SCREENING: *Patlabor II* (Mamoru Oshii, 1993, 118 minutes)
READING:

Week 5
Oct 5 & 7: Modernization, Tokyo Olympics, and Transformation of the Body
READING:
--Igarashi, *Bodies of Memory*, chp 5 “From the Anti-Security Treaty Movement to the Tokyo Olympics: Transforming the Body, the Metropolis, and Memory,” pp. 131-163.

Week 6
Oct 12: The Vietnam War and the US-Japan Relationship
***Paper #1 due Oct 12 in class***
SCREENING: *Blood the Last Vampire* (Kitakubo Hiroyuki, 2000, 48 minutes).
READING:
--Igarashi, *Bodies of Memory*, chp 6 “Re-presenting Trauma in Late-1960s Japan” and Conclusion, pp. 164-210.

Oct 14: No Class

Week 7
Oct 19: The Vietnam War and the US-Japan Relationship
READING:
--Ruh, *Stray Dog of Anime*, pp. 154-164

Oct 21: Apocalyptic Imagination
READING:
Week 8
Oct 26: ***Midterm Exam
Oct 28: Apocalyptic Imagination
READING:

Part 3: Americanization and Beyond
Week 9
Nov 2 & 4: Disney vs. Anime
SCREENING: Takahata Isao, Prince of the Sun: The Great Adventure of Hols (1968, 82 minutes).
READING:

Week 10
Nov 9 & 11: A Case of Tokyo Disneyland
READING:
--Mary Yoko Brannen, “‘Bwana Mickey’: Constructing Cultural Consumption at Tokyo Disneyland,” in Tobin, Re-Made in Japan, pp. 216-234.

Week 11
Nov 16 & 18: Is Anime Uniquely Japanese?
SCREENING: The Castle of Cagliostro (Miyazaki Hayao, 1979, 100 minutes)
READING:
--Lamarre, “From Animation to Anime”
--Looser, “From Edogawa to Miyazaki”

Week 12
Nov 23: Is Anime Uniquely Japanese?
NO READING ASSIGNED
Nov 25: Thanksgiving Break

Part 4: Globalization
Week 13
Nov 30 & Dec 2: Postmodernism and Otaku Culture
***Paper #2 due Nov 30 in class
SCREENING: Otaku no video (1991, 130 minutes)
READING:
--Kinsella, “Amateur Manga Subculture and the Otaku Panic”
--Napier, Anime from Akira to Princess Mononoke, Appendix, pp. 175-192.

Week 14 & 15
Dec 7 & 9 & 14: Anime and Globalization
SCREENING: Princess Mononoke (Hayao Miyazaki, 1997, 133 minutes)
READING:
--Appadurai, Modernity at Large, chp 2 “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy,” pp. 27-47.
--Ahn. “Animated Subjects”
--Ivy, “Revenge and Recapitation in Recessionary Japan”

Dec 16: ***Final Exam, 2:00-3:50 p.m.