In this course, students will consider and research some of topics and issues presented in contemporary Japanese society. Through the process of researching and discussing these topics, students attempt to gain deeper understanding of Japanese people and its culture and society.

**Textbook:** *Understanding Japanese Society* by Joy Hendry

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**Objectives:**

1. To familiarize students with more academic and journalistic writing style
2. To gain skills necessary in getting information (print and online) for research purposes
3. To improve students’ ability to converse in Japanese at more advanced level of difficulty on topics of contemporary issues
4. To broaden students’ perspectives on international issues
5. To be able to see one’s own culture within a framework of global scope
6. To extend students’ knowledge of grammar and vocabulary in both spoken and written Japanese

**Responsibilities and Requirements:**

1. Reading relevant materials by chapter of the text book and provided articles on topic each day before attending classes
2. Independent research on chosen topics for class presentation and discussion
3. Sending out the relevant articles, website links with relevant vocabulary list (on Canvas) to the entire class (including the instructor) no later than 24 ours before class time
4. Taking an active participation in class discussions
5. Writing and submitting a research paper (abstract in Japanese, main body either Japanese or English) as mid-term assignment (draft is due on Oct. 5 final version is due on Oct. 14)

6. Writing a final research paper (abstract in Japanese, main body either Japanese or English, draft is due on Nov 21 and final version is due on Dec. 1st).

7. Participating in a group the First Annual International Culture Exhibit (juried show) held at Cazier Library, exhibit open on Oct 16. Details to be announced at the first class. The deadline for groups to have their project approved by the instructor is Monday Sep 11.

成績 Evaluation and Grades:

1. Class reading and discussion (40%)

2. Presentations: two presentations on chosen topics (30%)

3. Mid-term paper (5-7pages-double space) paper on the chosen topic (draft 5% final submission 5%)

4. Final Project: Research presentation (20%) -group presentation allowed

Performance in each of above area will contribute to the overall grade in the course by the percentage indicated. Final grades will be based on a scale of 90-100 (A), 85-89 (A-), 80-84 (B+), 75-79 (B), 70-74 (B-), 65-69 (C+), 60-64 (C), 55-59 (C-), 50-54 (D+), etc.

Tutoring Support:

Students are encouraged to utilize Tutor Support available in Geology #451.

Weekly schedule will be posted in the room each week.