Introduction to Japanese Society (October 2019)

Using the following points system, all students will receive a raw score out of 100. This determines students’ rankings within the class. Grades are then distributed according to university guidelines for GPA.

Participation in Class (10%)

You start term with 6 points (the basic score for completing the course). You lose points for absences in the following way.

1st Absence: No penalty
2nd Absence: No penalty
3rd Absence: -1 point
4th Absence: -2 points
5th Absence: -3 points
6th Absence: Automatic fail of the whole course

Students may gain points by submitting bonus Active Learning Reading Reports (ALRR) over and above the five required for Active Learning (see below). Each bonus ALRR is worth 2 participation points. Example: 3 absences and one bonus ALRR is 6-1+2=7.

The maximum number of points is 10. If you get 0 points (5 absences and no bonus reports) it is still possible to pass the whole course, providing your performance in Active Learning and the End-of-term Exam is satisfactory.

Active Learning Reading Report (20%)

During the course, submit a minimum of FIVE Active Learning Reading Reports (ALRR). An ALRR is a summary + evaluation (200-300 words in English) of an article. The article is either a) a chapter from one of the books, or b) one of the articles named on the class webpage.

Format: When you write the ALRR, use the template that can be downloaded from the website. The ALRR may be typed or hand-written.

Submission: An ALRR may be submitted at any time, but the final class at which submission is accepted is 6 January 2020. Print out the ALRR and hand it in during class. It will be returned to you the following week with a score at the top.

Marking: Points are given as follows.

4 points: It is clear you have read the whole article/chapter. The report is excellent.
3 points: It is clear you have read the whole article/chapter. The report is good.
2 points: It is not clear if you have read the whole article/chapter. The written report is good.
1 points: It is not clear if you have read the whole article/chapter. The written report is weak.

Pass/Fail: Students who fail to submit five ALRRs will receive ZERO for Active Learning (regardless of how many points they gained for the ALRRs that they did submit) and may fail the whole course as a result.
End-of-Term Exam (70%)

Your 90-minute end-of-term exam is the most important part of your assessment. It will be held in the exam week (Week 14). In the exam you will write three essays. They are worth 15 points, 15 points and 40 points respectively. As a basic principle, you should spend 15 minutes, 15 minutes and 40 minutes answering the questions.

QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 (15 POINTS EACH)
Write two short essays of a few paragraphs each. There will be a list of 8 questions to choose from. The 8 questions will come from 8 of the weekly topics listed in the syllabus.

Sample Question: A question about the topic of Week 1 - The Japanese Archipelago (geography, climate, territory) - might be: “Give one way in which Japan’s geography and climate affects Japanese society.”

Revision tips: Prepare well 4-5 topics from the lectures. Revise the lecture notes; read the assigned reading; do extra reading around these topics from other sources. With 4-5 topics prepared, you should be able to answer 2 questions well.

QUESTION 3 (40 POINTS)
This is a prepared essay. The title is:

“Describe three ways in which Japanese society will need to adapt in order to cope with the climate crisis in the twenty-first century.”

You should prepare in detail the content of this essay during the term. Think of it as an end-of-term report that you write by hand in 40 minutes under exam conditions. Points are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>F</th>
<th>C-</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>C+</th>
<th>B-</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B+</th>
<th>A-</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structure and Overall Argument</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insight and Quality of Analysis</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data Sheet Content &amp; Usage</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No dictionaries or other texts are allowed in the end-of-term exam. But, you may bring into the exam a Data Sheet. Your Data Sheet is one side of A4 (Times New Roman, 12-point font). It will be submitted with your essay at the end of the exam. It may contain some or all of the following:

1) **Tables**: Tables of numerical data that you want to refer to in your essay.
2) **Graphs**: Visual materials indicating trends/statistics that you want to refer to in your essay.
3) **Maps/Images**: Visual material that you want to refer to in your essay. Photos of text/writing are **not allowed**.
4) **Quotations**: Quotations of up to 40 words from articles/books that you want to cite in your essay. Indicate clearly the source (author, publication name, page number).
5) **Facts/Vocabulary**: Little reminders of key information or vocabulary. Each reminder is a maximum of one line (Times New Roman 12-point font) in the Data Sheet.

**Note**: The purpose of the Data Sheet is to allow accurate graphs, tables, data and citations to be included in your exam essays. **The Data Sheet should not contain sentences that will be just copied into your answers.** See the sample Data Sheet on the next page. **Students considered to have broken the Data Sheet rules will be given F (-10 points).**
Data Sheet (Sample)

Name: Taro Tufs.  Student number: 0123456789

Table: Surface Area of Japan (from Statistical Handbook of Japan 2018 page 2).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>377,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honshu</td>
<td>231,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hokkaido</td>
<td>83,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kyushu</td>
<td>42,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shikoku</td>
<td>18,804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okinawa</td>
<td>2,281</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Geospatial Information Authority of Japan.

Graph: Population Pyramid (from Statistical Handbook of Japan 2018 page 8).

Map: Temperatures in Hokkaido (from Statistical Handbook of Japan 2018, page 5)

Quote: “The Japanese archipelago has a temperate marine climate. Though they may differ depending on the effects of seasonal winds and ocean currents, the changes in the four seasons are distinct.” (from Statistical Handbook of Japan 2018, page 5).

Facts/Vocabulary:
総務省統計局 = Statistical Bureau of Japan

Rubric: Introduction to Japanese Society  Teacher: Philip Seaton  October 2019