

<b>Academic Year</b>	2022-23 I Semester 2
<b>Course Coordinator</b>	Roslynn Ang (Dr.), email: <a href="mailto:roslynn.ang@ntu.edu.sg">roslynn.ang@ntu.edu.sg</a>
<b>Course Code/Title</b>	HH4090 / Special Topics in History – Global Asia: Minorities in the Socio-Cultural History of Japan
<b>Location</b>	LHS-TR+41
<b>Schedule</b>	Wednesday, 9:30am – 1:30pm
<b>Office hour</b>	TBA
<b>Pre-requisites</b>	None
<b>No of AUs</b>	4

### **Course Content**

Japan is commonly perceived as a homogeneous and mono-racial country today. However, that erases centuries of social, cultural, and political exchanges and movements of people across East Asia and beyond. Contemporary minorities in Japan include the Ainu, Okinawans (Ryukyuans), Buraku, Nikkei, and Zainichi (ethnic Koreans and Chinese). This course will examine the history of these minority groups in Japan by following their social, cultural, and political trajectory in East Asia and beyond. We will also track the constant negotiation and re-drawing of Japan's boundaries as it expands and contracts before and after the Pacific War.

We will progress chronologically from the first unofficial colonies of Japan, Hokkaido, and Okinawa, to the role of Taiwan, Korea, the Leased Territories in China, Manchuria, and the wartime empire in the construction of modern Japan. We will also consider the continuities between the prewar empire and postwar economic structure in Asia with Japan as the dominant power under U.S. hegemony. We will study the variations as well as commonalities of Japanese policies towards the different colonial territories and the historical experiences of different groups living under Japanese imperial rule.

In addition to the specific territories and peoples colonized by Japan, we will examine larger themes such as Pan-Asianism, Orientalism, wartime aesthetics, the role of gender, the black market, and concepts of modern hygiene to broaden the thematic scope beyond Japan. The course will therefore provide a framework for students to consider the differences across territories colonized by Japan and to study it comparatively with the colonial experiences of minorities groups who remain affected by the detritus of the empire today.

### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, you (as a student) would be able to:

1. Analyze the socio-political history of Japan in both national and regional contexts (East Asia and the US)
2. Compare and contrast the experiences of minorities and Indigenous peoples who underwent Japan's historical expansion and contraction in different regions.

3. Explain the socio-political histories and processes undergirding the making of a minority population
4. Identify and draw on large quantities of primary and secondary sources to produce original oral and written discussions on the history of minorities in Japan within a larger geopolitical context

### **Course Website and Readings:**

The NTU Learn course website is an important source of information for this subject. Useful resources such as this subject guide, links to further readings, details of assessment, and subject announcements will be available through this website. Make sure you check the website regularly for subject announcements and updates.

The readings for each week will be made available online. Since we will be discussing these in class each week, please bring along copies (electronic or paper) of the readings so you can refer to them.

The *supplementary readings* listed on the syllabus are intended mainly for those preparing to lead the discussion in a particular week. You are encouraged to source for additional readings, especially when leading the discussion. In addition to NTU's libraries, don't forget about checking for books at the Singapore Public Library and its branches.

### **Assessment (includes both continuous and summative assessment)**

#### **Essay proposal – not more than 1500 words (including citations), 15%:**

Tentative abstract, research question, proposed primary and secondary data to be used and how it relates to your proposal background, significance, methodology and/or data. This will be the essay proposal for your major essay.

Deadline: Week 8 or 9

#### **Major essay – not more than 4000 words (including citations), 40%**

Content: Topic of your choice on Japan's minorities.

Deadline: Week 14

**Perusall - 10%:** Weekly online questions/comments (minimum 4) on Perusall by Tuesdays 12pm (Week 2 to 13).

**Participation - 10%:** In-class discussion.

**Team-led seminar - 25%:** Lead the class with the week's readings (45 minutes). You are required to make an appointment with me (online or in-person) to discuss your plans *at least 24 hours before the class.* **(Note: Only during weeks with no screening or fieldtrip scheduled)**

### **Formative feedback**

Formative feedback will come through written responses to your essay proposal and midterm evaluation, responses to your online questions/comments via Perusall, as well

as through oral consultations with team-led seminar groups.

## **Course Policies and Student Responsibilities**

**Participation and Attendance:** To earn a full participation grade, you are expected to thoughtfully engage in class with the readings and discussions. You are required to read and comment collaboratively with your peers on weekly readings using Perusall. You are expected to take responsibility to follow up with course notes, assignments and course related announcements for seminar sessions you have missed. You are expected to participate in all seminar discussions and activities.

**Absenteeism:** Absence from class without a valid reason will affect your overall course grade. Valid reasons include either falling sick supported by a medical certificate, or participation in NTU's approved activities supported by an excuse letter from the relevant bodies. There will be no make-up opportunities for team presentations but you may negotiate with your group members to present your section if you have valid reasons for missing the seminar.

If you miss a seminar, you must inform the course instructor via email prior to the start of the class.

**Punctuality:** Latecomers will be disrupting the class. You are responsible for ensuring that you reach the classroom before 9:30am.

**Class readings:** *All readings are available through NTU Learn and/or Perusall.* They are for your personal use, and not broader distribution. **Complete all assigned readings and Perusall work prior to class meetings.**

**Active learning:** The use of laptops, and tablets during class is **allowed**. Take thoughtful notes on your readings either on your device or handwritten on a notebook. Before coming to *class*, please make sure your cell phone is turned off or set to silent mode, and placed in your backpack. You may not receive or send text messages during class. Students who violate this policy will be asked to leave and will receive no credit for the session.

**E-mail, consultations, and class notes:** I encourage you to come see me during my regular consultation hours and to e-mail me with questions not provided in the syllabus. However, I will not provide class notes (ask a classmate) nor will I offer advice about essays in the 48 hours before they are due; you simply won't have time to use it. Check NTU Learn regularly for announcements.

### **Academic Integrity:**

Ensure that you follow appropriate citation conventions for all assignments and familiarize yourself with the University's policies on plagiarism and collaboration. The University has recently clarified and strengthened its rules regarding plagiarism. Plagiarism does not have to be intentional in order for it to count as an infringement.

Start work early so you are not rushing to complete things at the last minute. Breaches will be taken very seriously and – in addition to any grade penalties – a permanent citation will be made on your student file.

**Late work and extensions:**

Any submitted work that is late will result in the deduction of one letter grade per day. Missing leading the discussion or not scheduling a discussion will result in a zero grade for that component.

Extensions will only be granted in very special cases and only then when requested at least one week in advance of a deadline.

**Weekly Schedule (refer to “Weekly schedule” in NTULearn -> Information)**

Week 1 (Jan 11) : Introduction

Week 2 (Jan 18): Beginnings of an Empire

Week 3 (Jan 25) : The Ainu – Early interactions in Ezo

Screening: Golden Kamuy (Episodes 1 & 2)

Week 4 (Feb 1) : The Ryukyuan Kingdom – Early Interactions

Week 5 (Feb 8): Burakumin History (Part 1)

Week 6 (Feb 15): Nikkei, outbound and inbound migration

Week 7 (Feb 22): The Ainu – Japan as Settler Colonial State

Recess Week (Mar 1)

Week 8 (Mar 8): Okinawans in Modern Japan

Screening: The Targeted Village (2014)

Week 9 (Mar 15): Burakumin History (Part 2)

Week 10 (Mar 22): Korean Peninsula and the Zainichi

Screening: Our School (Uri Hakyo, 2006)

Week 11 (Mar 29): Fieldtrip (Location TBA)

Week 12 (Apr 5): Taiwan, ethnic Chinese and the Zainichi

Week 13 (Apr 12): Conclusion - Minorities in modern Japan

Screening: Tokyo Ainu (2011)