

< 科目名 Subject > Japanese Society B

< 担当者 Instructors > Geoffrey Gunn

< 授業の到達目標及びテーマ Class Theme >

< 授業の概要 Summary >

This course exposes the student to the major (English-language) texts that have shaped an understanding of contemporary Japanese society and politics. As such, it treats certain bodies of writings on Japanese society as not only influential but image-shaping in the way that Japan has been perceived on the outside. Needless to say, intellectual fashions and trends have changed over the decades with respect to Japan studies and this course will also endeavor to track those trends.

< 授業計画 Class Plan >

Across 15 lectures we will identify, explain, and critically discuss the writings of a number of Japan specialists, not only in the abstract but also relating to the real world. The list continues to grow but includes Benedict, Reishauer, Nakane, Dore, Doi, Johnson, Vogel, van Wolferen, McCormack, Buruma, and Sugimoto.

< 評価方法 Evaluation >

Evaluation will be based primarily on a written project due during the term.

< テキスト Textbooks >

The course does not presume prior knowledge of the Japan literature but does entail a willingness to read the assigned texts on cue. Students may be obliged to “adopt” a text with a view to reviewing as part of the course assessment.