The course offers a comprehensive account of the structures of gender in Japan through its history and culture. Covering key issues in gender studies including discrimination, media representation, labour issues, and education, the course situates these dynamics in their historical and cultural context using analyses of popular media. The course begins with a general introduction to gender studies, followed by the more specific application of key works and theories to the context of Japan. Thereafter, each lecture will address a singular gender issue in Japan from a historical and cultural perspective. Students wishing to audit this class are welcome to do so. No prior knowledge of the Japanese language is required; all film texts are subtitled and readings are in English. Students are welcome to expand their independent reading to include Japanese sources, and will be supported in class to share this research with classmates.

By the end of the course, students should have a clear understanding of the key debates on gender in Japanese society and be able to situate these debates within their global and cultural contexts. The course aims to develop the student’s capacities to think through these debates using a diverse sources grounded in history and media.

Course goals

1) Introduction
   Core topics of the class will be introduced and readings assigned.
2) What is Gender Studies?
   Reading: Judith Butler, ‘Preface,’ Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity.
3) Gender and Japanese History
4) Education and Gender in Japan
5) Gender and the Family in Japan
6) Labour and Gender in Japan

World Equality Forum Gender Gap Report
7) Japanese Masculinities

8) Sexualities in Japan

9) Gender, Discrimination, and Violence in Japan

10) Media and Gender in Japan(1): Stars

11) Media and Gender in Japan(2): The Yakuza Film

12) Feminism and the Future of Gender in Japan

Evaluation
Research papers (80%), participation (20%)

Studies to be done outside of class
The participants are expected to come to every class and spend a certain amount of study time outside of this class for this course.

Textbooks
Recommended Resources:
Mark McLeod and Romit Dasgupta (eds.) Genders, Transgenders and Sexualities in Japan, London: Routledge, 2005
Kumiko Fujimura-Fanselow, Transforming Japan, New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York, 2011
Sirin Sung and Gillian Pascal (eds.) Gender and Welfare States in Eastern Asia: Confucianism or Gender Equality, London: Macmillan, 2014
The course materials will be made available via the course webpage.
https://www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ (see KULASIS for details and the enrolment key)

About the instructor
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