Meeting Time & Location: 9:30-10:20 MWF
Instructor: Mitsue Sandom (Office: TBC)
Office Hours: TBC

Course Description

The humanities can be defined as the ‘study of humans and/or human culture.’ It encompasses a wide range of academic disciplines such as philosophy, literature, linguistics, religion, area studies, law, art, etc. This course aims to give opportunities for students to think about humans and human culture through reading original Japanese texts of various topics in the field of humanities.

Student Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the course, students will
1. be able to understand the main idea, supporting details and argumentative structures in various authentic Japanese texts in the field of humanities
2. refine their skills of understanding complex sentence structures acquired in regular reading courses
3. reinforce existing vocabulary knowledge acquired in regular reading courses
4. learn advanced vocabulary specific to certain disciplines in humanities in a networked way
5. become familiar with syntactic, lexical, discourse and pragmatic patterns which can be observed in some authentic Japanese texts in humanities
6. obtain some reading strategies to read authentic Japanese texts
7. be able to convey their opinions, and provide an oral and written summary or reaction in Japanese

The class will be delivered primarily in Japanese and students are expected to express and share their thoughts in Japanese during class discussion. In order to get the most out of class activities, full preparation for class is expected.

Course Materials

Selected texts will be uploaded to the course website. You will be notified via e-mail when a new file is uploaded. Therefore, you will need to check your email on a regular basis. Please bring your own copy of these texts to class.

Voluntary reading materials are also provided in this course. These are easier reading materials in terms of syntax and vocabulary which have relevance to chosen themes. Reading them is not compulsory but doing so is recommended in order to nurture fluency in reading and deepen interest in themes dealt in the course.
Tasks and Activities during class

1. Mini quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class.
2. Reading in class will be conducted, focusing on grammatically problematic sentences and paragraphs with main messages.
3. Discussion in Japanese will help students to understand the background and significance of a given text in each class.
4. Sentence or short passage writing practice will reinforce newly-learnt vocabulary.
5. Students are required to present their own choice of texts related to topics dealt in the course twice (mid-term and end-of-term).

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance is required because peer interaction in class is significant in terms of language learning.
2. Preparation for class and timely completion of homework assignments are required.
3. A valid documented excuse needs to be presented when students are unable to meet required tasks/assessments presented below in a timely manner.

Grading

Class participation & Homework-----------------------------------------------15%
Mid-term Exam---------------------------------------------------------------20%
Final Exam (Monday, December 15, 2014, 9:45-11:45a.m.)..................25%
Mid-term presentation----------------------------------------------------------10%
Final presentation-------------------------------------------------------------15%
Mini quizzes---------------------------------------------------------------15%