Grading Guidelines for JAP 1501: Present-Day Japan Autumn 2024

Course Description

This course has a two-fold structure and aim. First, it introduces students to various facets of present-day Japanese society, culture, politics and international relations. We will critically examine key issues and the discourses surrounding them, including demographic and familial changes, precarity and social inequality, domestic politics and democracy, public memory and foreign relations, ethnic minority groups, environmental issues, and heritage and religion. Second, the course offers guidance on how to write an academic paper. Students are highly encouraged to attend the Academic Writing Course for BA students organized by IKOS. Students will also receive individual feedback on paper proposals and drafts.

Examination

For the final examination, you will submit a 10-page term paper (not including a front page or list of references) on a topic of your choice relating to present-day Japan. The essay should be written in Times New Roman font, size 12, with 1.5 line spacing. The term paper must be based on at least three academic sources from outside of the course syllabus, in addition to relevant course readings and other sources.

Grading Guidelines

A: Papers that receive the highest mark should be of a very high overall standard, having a clear focus, a clear and coherent argument, and a highly original analysis that is based on a careful and insightful reading of the sources, particularly the academic sources. The paper is well-written, substantiated, and referenced throughout. Papers that receive an A are distinguished by the depth and originality of their response.

B: Papers that receive this mark are of a high overall standard, with significant strengths in multiple areas.

C: Papers that receive this mark are of a good overall standard. Shortcomings in some areas may be balanced out by strengths in others.

D: Papers that receive this mark have shortcomings that relate to either formal or substantial content; for example, not following the guidelines as to the use of academic sources, or not presenting a coherent argument.

E-F: Papers that receive one of these marks do not meet the academic standard either formally or substantially.