

Special Topic 290

Human Environment Interaction in Japan and the USA



A bear, hungry after hibernating during the winter, looking for food

DETAILS

Winter 201
Tuesdays & Thursdays 14:00 - 15:15
Room B 205 (Module 1) & Online (Module 2)

Instructors

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DESCRIPTION

Both Akita Prefecture and Eagle County mountainous regions with deciduous and evergreen forests, both are dotted with densely urbanized areas, both have vast natural parks, ski resorts, golf courses, and, significantly, both feature an abundance of wildlife, including bears, antelopes (*kamoshika*), wild cats, wild boar, and *wapiti* (Rocky Mountain Elk). Consequently, the residents, businesses, governments of, as well as the visitors to, both Akita Prefecture and Eagle County in Colorado must acknowledge the presence of and contend with the dangers presented by wild animals. But the real problem for human is not only the risk management of wild animals because the animal encounters in urbanized areas has been

occurred by the change of human residential patterns in the recent decades. We need to consider human environmental interaction through an interdisciplinary lens.

Though they face similar problems with human-animal interaction, Japan and the United States are very dissimilar regions in many regards. They have different cultural contexts and different historical backgrounds. They have vastly different systems of environmental law and wildlife management policies. This course nests within the striking similarities and profound differences between these two regions, the problems they face with human-animal interactions as well as culturally appropriate, economically feasible, and environmentally sustainable solutions to these problems. Interestingly, Akita and Eagle County are experiencing completely different human population growth patterns. The human population in Akita, especially in rural areas such as Kita Akita city, the historical location of traditional bear hunters (*matagi*), is rapidly declining. Conversely, the human population has grown dramatically in Eagle County. This growth is especially acute in rural areas.

This course is taught by two faculty members, Sig Langegger PhD, a geographer and Yo Negishi PhD, an archeologist & anthropologist. Dr. Langegger will teach his modules from Eagle County, Colorado and will utilize various digital media, including YouTube videos, and multiple facets of the AIMS platform. Dr. Negishi will teach his modules on the AIU campus, and will utilize the actual 'living' example in Akita prefecture to consider the human-environment interaction.

The course comprises two modules, one focused on Japan, the other on the USA. Since the subject matter our teaching styles are quite different these modules are not exact mirrors. Nonetheless, each module is based upon the same rubric, which includes traditional human-environment interaction, modern human-environment interaction, and wildlife management. These models contrast Japanese and North American human environment interactions. Dr. Langegger will teach the modules focused on North America. Dr. Negishi will teach the modules focused on Japan. There will be two exams in this course, one covering material presented in the North American modules, one covering material presented in the Japanese modules.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will:

1. Have learned the basics of environmental preservation and environmental conservation.
2. Have developed an understanding of the complex ecologies in Japan.
3. Have developed an understanding of the complex ecologies in the United States.
4. Have attained a workable knowledge of wildlife and forest management policies and practices in the Japan.
5. Have attained a workable knowledge of wildlife and forest management policies and practices in the United States.
6. Have improved their reading comprehension skills.
7. Have improved their writing skills
8. Have improved their critical thinking skills.

READING

Required Books

Knight, J *Waiting for Wolves in Japan: An Anthropological Study of People-wildlife Relations* 2006
 Totman, C and Webb *The Green Archipelago: Forestry in Pre-Industrial Japan (Ecology & History)* 1998
 McKean, M.A. *Environmental Protest and Citizen Politics in Japan* 1981

Charles Menzies *Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Natural Resource Management* 2006
 Char Miller *Public Lands, Public Debates: A Century of Controversy* 2012

Suggested Books

Rachel Carson *Silent Spring* 1962
 Aldo Leopold *A Sand County Almanac: With Other Essays on Conservation* 1948
 M. Kat Anderson *Tending the Wild: Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources* 2005

Additional Readings

Other required readings are posted on AIMS under the appropriate Module

MULTIMEDIA

Required Viewing

"The World of Matagi in Ou Mountain Range" (NHK, 1987)

ASSESSMENT

Quizzes	30
Discussion Forums	30
<u>Exams</u>	<u>40</u>
Total Points Possible	100

ASSESSMENT POLICIES

Quizzes

There will be a total of fifteen (15) quizzes, each worth two (2) points. The quizzes cover lectures and reading materials. They will comprise multiple-choice, short answer and true/false questions.

Exams

There will be two exams, one that covers the Japanese Module and one that covers the United States Module, each worth twenty (20) points. The exams will comprise short answer and essay questions.

Discussion Forums

Each module consists of an online discussion forum. This forum comprises two parts. First, the instructor will pose questions and discussion topics relevant to the assigned readings and lectures. Students are required to submit well-written responses to these questions and topics on AIMS discussion board. Second, each student must compose comments to three other students posted responses. Both aspects of the discussion forum will be assessed in

accordance to the *Discussion Forum Grading Rubric*, which is posted on AIMS under Course Documents. We strongly advise students to use a word processing application to compose their responses and comments so that they may paste spell-checked and grammar-proofed text into the appropriate discussion forum on AIMS.

Makeup Work

Aside from *exceptional situations*, there will be no chance to make up missed discussion forums, quizzes or exams. Proof of an exceptional situation must be submitted to the appropriate instructor in writing and signed by the appropriate authority within 24 hours of due date. We reserve the right to define an exceptional situation and furthermore to make all final decisions relating to amending, redoing, or making up late or incomplete work.

GENERAL POLICIES

Academic Honesty

Academic dishonesty consists of plagiarism, cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submission of the same work, misuse of academic materials, and complicity in the academic dishonesty other others. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated; the consequences of academic dishonesty include but are not limited to failing an assignment, failing the class, and possibly dismissal from the university. Students are responsible for being observant of and attentive to Akita International University's policies about academic honesty.

Special Needs

If you require accommodations, please alert both instructors of your needs on the first day of class so that we can work with the administration to meet them.

Civility & Classroom Decorum

Silence all cell phones, beepers, etc., during class. Speaking on cell phones, texting, or using electronic equipment in any way that is not directly related to class is strictly prohibited.

SCHEDULE

Module 1 - Japan	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 9	Traditional Japanese Land Use (1): Farmers
Content	Classroom lecture
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	Foster 2013 Inviting the Uninvited Guest, <i>The Journal of American Folklore</i> Vol. 126
Module 1 - Japan	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 11	Traditional Japanese Land Use (2): Hunters (<i>Matagi</i>)
Content	Classroom lecture / video (<i>Matagi</i>)
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Waiting for Wolves in Japan</i>
Module 1 - Japan	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 13 (Sat)	Traditional Japanese Land Use (1): Farmers
Content	Fieldwork (tentatively evening of Jan 13 Sat @Yuwa Town)
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	None

Module 1 - Japan	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 16	Traditional Japanese Land Use (3): <i>Satoyama</i>
Content	Classroom lecture
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	Taguchi 2009 Correlative Significance of Trap-placing and Environmental Differences <i>Senri Ethnological Studies</i> 72
Module 1 - Japan	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 18	Forestry in Pre-Industrial Japan (1600-1870)
Content	Classroom Lecture
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>The Green Archipelago</i>
Module 1 - Japan	Modern Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 23	Wildlife and Forest Management in Japan
Content	Classroom lecture
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	Sano 2012 Japan's Wildlife Management: Actors and Policies <i>Ritsumeikan Journal of Asia Pacific Studies</i> 31
Module 1 - Japan	Modern Human-Environment Interaction
Jan 25	The Rise of Environmental Conservation and Environmental Preservation in Japan
Content	Classroom lecture
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Environmental Protest and Citizen Politics in Japan</i>
Module 1 - Japan	Exam
Feb 1	
Module 2 - USA	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Feb 6	Native American Land Use
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Natural Resource Management</i>
Module 2 - USA	Traditional Human-Environment Interaction
Feb 8	Native American Wildlife Management
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Natural Resource Management</i>
Module 2 - USA	Modern Human-Environment Interaction
Feb 13	European Settlement of North America
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Public Lands Public Debates</i>

Module 2 - USA Feb 15	Modern Human-Environment Interaction The Rise of Environmental Conservation and Environmental Preservation in the United States
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>In Search of Nature</i> William Cronon
Module 2 - USA Feb 20	Modern Human-Environment Interaction Environmental law in the United States
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Public Lands, Public Debates</i>
Module 2 - USA Feb 22	Modern Human-Environment Interaction Wildlife management in the United States
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & Discussion forum
Reading	<i>The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation</i>
Module 2 - USA Feb 27	Modern Human-Environment Interaction Forest management in the United States
Content	Online lecture/videos
Assessment	Quiz & discussion forum
Reading	<i>Public Lands, Public Debates</i>
Module 2 - USA March 1	Exam