

21G.039J Gender and Japanese Popular Culture  
Fall 2015  
Prof. Ian Condry

**Essay 1: 5-pages, double spaced**

Draft DUE: 10/15 (R) BRING two (2) copies to class for peer review workshop

Final version DUE: 10/20 (T) by 10pm

In the first section of this class, we have explored theories of gender, theories of popular culture, and discussions of inequality. We have also explored some examples of popular culture, including *Princess Jellyfish* (manga) and *Kamikaze Girls* (film). Using these materials, please make an argument regarding one (1) of the following statements:

- Japanese popular culture reveals that women have the power to shape their own destinies.
- The structural contexts in which women and men operate are oppressive because they force people into particular gender roles.
- When Japanese popular culture travels abroad, it is fundamentally transformed because of the different contexts in which it is consumed.
- The economic dynamic of capitalism is the driving force in shaping unequal gender relations.

When you make your argument, using the materials in class, please consider counter arguments that appear in the readings and/or that you develop yourself. Try to respond to these counter arguments as well.

I would like you to focus on the materials used in class, but if you'd like to consider a form of popular culture that you are interested in, that may be included as well.

I also am open to students proposing their own topics for essay writing. In that case, please propose the topic to me by 10/8 so that other people in the class might write about the same topic.

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