

Gender and Japanese Popular Culture
Fall 2015
Prof. Ian Condry

Final Project Prompt

Please choose a topic of interest to you related to gender and Japanese popular culture, and write an 8-10 page (double-spaced) essay analyzing an aspect of this phenomenon that speaks to the issues we have read about and discussed in class.

In particular, we have explored analyses of gender in terms of social theory, cultural contexts, and media representations,. We have considered gender and class inequalities, questions of transnational flows, and gender and performance through Takarazuka, onnagata, host clubs, idols, and video games. We have also explored questions of “hegemonic masculinity and femininity” as well as transgender fluidity. All of these readings and topics are appropriate to consider incorporating into your final project.

The final project has several parts:

Literature Review 4-5 pages due Dec. 1, Tue

Please analyze readings in the class (4 at least; more is better) and 2-3 outside readings (that you found) in terms of your topic. These outside readings should be academic journal articles or book chapters. In addition, I expect many of you will choose some aspect of popular culture to explore.

Final presentation (10 minutes) in class Dec. 1, 3, 7

Please consider touching on the following topics: Your research question(s), relate to some of the readings (in class assignments and scholarly articles you’ve found yourself), and something about what you hope to learn (or have learned) from the study of your topic.

Final paper 8-10 pages, Due Dec. 10,

Using your literature, incorporate an additional 3-5 pages on some aspect of Japanese popular culture of your choice. Your polished argument about your research topic and its implications for the understanding of gender and Japanese popular culture. Please also include reference to two (2) student presentations, 3-4 of the class readings, 2-3 outside readings that you’ve found. Images are encouraged; images do not count towards number of pages.

Please also consider, if appropriate, interviewing some people who could help you understand your topic, whether as experts, fans, or anti-fans.

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