Japanese Literature in Translation

This course provides an introduction to the major works and trends in Japanese prose literature from the earliest times to the modern period. It includes a broad range of genres across more than a thousand years of Japan's literary history, from the beginnings of prose tale literature, to medieval folk tales and military chronicles, to the popular woodblock printed works of the early modern period, and through the important trends in modern Japanese literature. Throughout, the focus will be on both continuity, as later authors draw on the conventions of earlier works; and change, as those conventions are adapted or subverted for changing times and audiences with new expectations.

This course makes extensive use of the university’s Blackboard online learning environment, both to distribute readings and as a forum for submitting and responding to reaction papers. Access Blackboard at blackboard.wlu.edu, and login using your W&L Username and Password. The Blackboard interface is fairly straightforward, but if you have no experience using the system or are uncomfortable with computers, let me know immediately so we can help you get started. Becoming experienced with using Blackboard is vital to your success in this course.

Evaluation will be on the basis of class attendance and participation, online reaction papers and responses, a midterm exam, and a final exam.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six Online Reaction Papers</td>
<td>6 x 5%  = 30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twelve Online Responses</td>
<td>12 x 1% = 12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four Wiki Edits</td>
<td>4 x 2% = 8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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Most important, both to your grade and to the success of the class, is keeping up on the assigned readings and being ready and willing to discuss them, both in the classroom and online. I do take attendance, as well as take note of your participation in class, and these factors do affect your grade. Think of the class as being divided into two halves, with half of the required assignments falling in each half. Thus, half of your online reaction papers (3), half of the online responses (6), and two out of your four wiki edits must be completed by the time of the midterm exam (Oct. 15th). Throughout the semester you will also be required to post reaction papers and responses to the Blackboard online discussion board. A reaction paper should be approximately 1 1/2 to 2 pages long and should articulate your reaction to that day’s readings. It does not need to be a formal argumentative essay, but it should be more substantive than mere summary. It is intended to give your interpretation of the material in light of your own experience and
the issues we raise in class, and should show an active engagement with the text. Remember: you aren’t expected to be an expert on the topic, just an engaged reader. Reaction papers must be posted online by midnight the day before the class in which the readings are to be discussed, in order to give your fellow students time to read and respond to them before class. Late reaction papers are useless to fostering online discussion and thus will not be accepted. Six of these papers are required over the course of the semester and you may choose any of the readings to which you wish to respond, but you may not write more than one in any given week. Whether or not you write a reaction paper, other students’ reaction papers should be considered a part of the required readings for all students, and you should make a point of reading the other students’ reactions and perhaps writing an online response to them before coming to class (the response deadline). The online responses are less formal than the reaction papers and should respond not only to the text itself, but to the other students’ reactions. There is no set length for these responses, but they should show a willingness to engage with other students’ ideas rather than relying only on one’s own interpretation. Twelve of these responses are required over the course of the semester, and no more than three will be counted for any given week. These online discussions will be the jumping off point for in-class discussion.

The class wiki is intended to help students share resources as they process material, study for exams, etc. A wiki is a communally created website, in this case focused on the material covered in this course. I have set up the framework, including an outline of authors, works, genres, and key terms, but it is up to you to provide the content. You are required to make four edits to the wiki over the course of the semester (send me an e-mail describing what you did in order to insure you receive credit), but the more time and effort are put into it, the more valuable it will be as a resource. You can access the wiki at http://library.wlu.edu/wiki/index.php/JapanLitWiki/JapanLitWiki

There are six required texts for this course:

- Classical Japanese Prose (CJP)
- Genji & Heike (G&H)
- Ihara Saikaku, Life of an Amorous Woman
- Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature (Columbia)
- Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories (Oxford)
- Natsume Sōseki, Kokoro

All are available at the bookstore. Additional readings (identified on the syllabus with a ☐ mark) will be made available in pdf format in the “Materials” section of Blackboard. The books containing these works are also on 4-hr. reserve at Leyburn, though you should not rely on being able to access these materials.

The midterm exam will be proctored through the TMC, on the top floor of Tucker Hall. Class on that day is cancelled and you should go in to take the exam sometime during regular TMC hours on that day. The final exam period for Fall ‘07 is from December 8th-14th and final exams are distributed through the German Department on the 2nd floor of Tucker Hall. Bring a blue book for both midterm and final.
Course Schedule

Getting Started

Friday, September 7th  Syllabus & Introduction to the Course
Assignment:  Login to Blackboard and Introduce Yourself

Week One

Monday, September 10th  “Tales” and “Poem tales”
           “Tales of Ise,”  CJP pp. 38-69

Wednesday, September 12th  Heian “female” diaries
Readings:  “Tosa Journal,”  CJP pp. 70-102
           “Gossamer Journal,”  CJP pp. 102-155

Friday, September 14th  Heian musings
           “Short Tales of Aristocratic Life,”  CJP pp. 251-270

Week Two

Monday, September 17th  The Tale of Genji
Readings:  “Introduction,”  G&H pp. 3-19
           “Kiritsubo,”  G&H pp. 25-40
           “The Broom Tree,”  G&H pp. 41-58

Wednesday, September 19th  The Tale of Genji
Readings:  “Yûgao,”  G&H pp. 59-83
           “Young Murasaki,”  G&H pp. 84-112

Friday, September 21st  The Tale of Genji
Readings:  “A Celebration Amid Autumn Leaves,”  G&H pp. 113-130
           “Aoi,”  G&H pp. 131-159

Week Three

Monday, September 24th  The Tale of Genji
           “Akashi,”  G&H pp.190-215
Wednesday, September 26th  The Tale of Genji
           “The Rites,” G&H pp. 231-242
Excerpts from As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams
Excerpts from The Diary of Lady Murasaki

Friday, September 28th  Transition to the Kamakura Period
Readings:  “Heian and Medieval Setsuwa,” CJP pp. 271-287
           “An Account of my Hermitage,” CJP pp. 377-392
           “The Way of the Warrior” (pp. 265-276)

Week Four

Monday, October 1st  The Tale of the Heike
Readings:  Ch. 1-5, G&H pp. 265-337

Wednesday, October 3rd  The Tale of the Heike
Readings:  Ch. 6-9, G&H pp. 338-397

Friday, October 5th  The Tale of the Heike
Readings:  Ch. 10-12, G&H pp. 398-445
           “The Initiates Chapter,” G&H pp. 446-458

Week Five

Monday, October 8th  Medieval Memoirs
           “Essays in Idleness,” CJP pp. 393-421

Wednesday, October 10th  Otogizôshi and illustrated scrolls
Readings:  “Two Companion Booklets,” CJP pp. 495-509
           Excerpts from Tales of Tears and Laughter
           View picture scrolls online

Friday, October 12th  ••• Reading Day • No Class •••

Week Six

Monday, October 15th  ••• Midterm Exam – Class Cancelled •••
           ••• Take the midterm in the TMC sometime today •••

Wednesday, October 17th  Into the Tokugawa Period
Readings:  “Early Modern Japan” (pp. 1-20)
           “Kana Booklets and Emergence of Print Culture” (pp. 21-41)
           “A Japanese Burlesque: Nise Monogatari” (pp. 1-18)
Friday, October 19th  
Ihara Saikaku  
Readings:  
“The Period” and “The Author,” Saikaku pp. 3-19  
“Five Women Who Chose Love,” Saikaku pp. 55-118  

Week Seven  

Monday, October 22nd  
Ihara Saikaku  
Readings:  
“The Life of an Amorous Woman,” Saikaku pp. 121-208  

Wednesday, October 24th  
Ihara Saikaku  
Readings:  
“Reckonings That Carry Men…” Saikaku pp. 235-263  

Friday, October 26th  
Matsuo Bashô  
Readings:  
“The Journey of 1684,” CJP pp. 510-522  
“The Narrow Road of the Interior,” CJP pp. 522-551  

Week Eight  

Monday, October 29th  
Ueda Akinari  
Readings:  
“Tales of Moonlight and Rain” (Shirane pp. 563-598)  

Wednesday, October 31st  
Santô Kyôden  
Readings:  
“Playboy, Roasted a la Edo” (Shirane pp. 339-426)  

Friday, November 2nd  
Ryûtei Tanehiko  
Readings:  
“Country Genji by Commoner Murasaki” (Shirane pp. 800-842)  

Week Nine  

Monday, November 5th  
Into the Modern Era  
Readings:  
“The Essence of the Novel” (Keene pp. 55-58)  
“Drifting Clouds,” Columbia pp. 56-66  

Wednesday, November 7th  
Shiga Naoya  
Readings:  
“The Diary of Claudius,” Columbia pp. 492-502  
“The Shopboy’s God,” Columbia pp. 508-514  
“Night Fires,” Oxford pp. 52-61  
“Han’s Crime,” (Keene pp. 261-271)  
“At Kinosaki,” (Keene pp. 272-277)
Friday, November 9th

Mori Ôgai

Readings:
- “The Dancing Girl,” Columbia pp. 10-25
- “Boat on the River Takase,” Columbia pp. 206-213
- “Sansho the Steward,” Oxford pp. 1-27

Week Ten

Monday, November 12th

Natsume Sôseki

Readings: Kokoro pp. 1-96

Wednesday, November 14th

Natsume Sôseki

Readings: Kokoro pp. 97-192

Friday, November 16th

Nagai Kafû, Shimazaki Tôson

Readings:
- “The River Sumida” (Keene pp. 159-200)
- “The Life of a Certain Woman,” Columbia pp. 226-253
- “The Broken Commandment” (Keene pp. 134-141)

•• November 19th – 23rd • Thankgiving Break ••

Week Eleven

Monday, November 26th

Akutagawa Ryûnosuke, Tanizaki Jun’ichirô

Readings:
- “The Nose,” Columbia pp. 342-346
- “In a Grove,” Oxford pp. 95-102
- “The Two Acolytes,” Columbia pp. 539-554
- “Okuni and Gohei,” Columbia pp. 627-639

Wednesday, November 28th

Kawabata Yasunari, Hayashi Fumiko

Readings:
- “The Dancing Girl of Izu,” Oxford pp. 129-149
- “The Mole” (Keene pp. 366-375)
- “Tokyo” (Keene pp. 415-428)

Friday, November 30th

War and its aftermath

Readings:
- “December 8th,” Columbia pp. 660-667
- “Soldiers Alive,” Columbia pp. 667-675
- “Merry Christmas,” Oxford pp. 224-231
- “Prize Stock,” Oxford pp. 351-390
Week Twelve

Monday, December 3rd
Okamoto Kanako, Kôno Taeko, Enchi Fumiko
Readings:
“Portrait of an Old Geisha,” Oxford pp. 79-94

Wednesday, December 5th
Abe Kôbô, Mishima Yukio
Readings:
“The Magic Chalk” (Gessel pp. 63-75)
“Onnagata,” Oxford pp. 293-312
“The Boy Who Wrote Poetry” (Hibbett pp. 282-291)

Friday, December 7th
Murakami Haruki, Yoshimoto Banana
Readings:
“On Meeting My 100% Woman…” (Mitsios pp. 23-26)
“Kitchen” (Mitsios pp. 152-171)

Final Exam Period: December 8th – 14th