

Fall 2007 • LIT 221  
M•W•F 12:20-1:15pm (E)  
Office hours: M•W 2-3pm

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## *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](http://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.

Attendance and Participation		20%
Six Online Reaction Papers	6 x 5% =	30%
Twelve Online Responses	12 x 1% =	12%
Four Wiki Edits	4 x 2% =	8%
Midterm Exam		15%
Final Exam		15%


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:

<i>Classical Japanese Prose</i>	(CJP)
<i>Genji &amp; Heike</i>	(G&H)
Ihara Saikaku, <i>Life of an Amorous Woman</i>	
Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature	(Columbia)
Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories	(Oxford)
Natsume Sôseki, <i>Kokoro</i>	

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 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> and final exams are distributed through the German Department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Tucker Hall. Bring a blue book for both midterm and final.

# Course Schedule

## Getting Started

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

## Week One

Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> "Tales" and "Poem tales"  
Readings: "The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter," *CJP* pp. 27-37  
"Tales of Ise," *CJP* pp. 38-69

Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> Heian "female" diaries  
Readings: "Tosa Journal," *CJP* pp. 70-102  
"Gossamer Journal," *CJP* pp. 102-155

Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup> Heian musings  
Readings: "The Pillow Book of Sei Shônagon," *CJP* pp. 156-199  
"Short Tales of Aristocratic Life," *CJP* pp. 251-270

## Week Two

Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup> *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 19<sup>th</sup> *The Tale of Genji*  
Readings: "Yûgao," *G&H* pp. 59-83  
"Young Murasaki," *G&H* pp. 84-112

Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> *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 24<sup>th</sup> *The Tale of Genji*  
Readings: "Suma," *G&H* pp. 160-189  
"Akashi," *G&H* pp. 190-215

Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> *The Tale of Genji*

Readings: “New Herbs: Part Two,” *G&H* pp. 216-230  
“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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> *The Tale of the Heike*

Readings: Ch. 1-5, *G&H* pp. 265-337

Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> *The Tale of the Heike*

Readings: Ch. 6-9, *G&H* pp. 338-397

Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> *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 8<sup>th</sup> Medieval Memoirs

Readings: “Confessions of Lady Nijō,” *CJP* pp. 288-339  
“Essays in Idleness,” *CJP* pp. 393-421

Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup> *Otogizōshi* and illustrated scrolls

Readings: “Two Companion Booklets,” *CJP* pp. 495-509  
Excerpts from *Tales of Tears and Laughter* ㊦  
View picture scrolls online ㊦

Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> ••• Reading Day • No Class •••

## Week Six

Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>

••• Midterm Exam – Class Cancelled •••  
••• Take the midterm in the TMC sometime today •••

Wednesday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> Ihara Saikaku  
Readings: "Life of an Amorous Woman," Saikaku pp. 121-208

Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> Ihara Saikaku  
Readings: "The Eternal Storehouse of Japan," Saikaku pp. 211-232  
"Reckonings That Carry Men..." Saikaku pp. 235-263

Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> Ueda Akinari  
Readings: "Tales of Moonlight and Rain" (Shirane pp. 563-598) 𑄎

Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> Santô Kyôden  
Readings: "Playboy, Roasted a la Edo" (Shirane pp. 339-426) 𑄎

Friday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> Ryûtei Tanehiko  
Readings: "Country Genji by Commoner Murasaki" (Shirane pp. 800-842) 𑄎

## Week Nine

Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> Into the Modern Era  
Readings: "The Essence of the Novel" (Keene pp. 55-58) 𑄎  
"Drifting Clouds," Columbia pp. 56-66  
"Meat and Potatoes," Columbia pp. 153-167  
"The Clay Doll," Columbia pp. 168-206  
"The Girl Watcher," Columbia pp. 254-264

Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> Shiga Naoya  
Readings: "The Diary of Claudius," Columbia pp. 492-502  
"The Paper Door," Columbia pp. 502-508  
"The Shopboy's God," Columbia pp. 508-514  
"Night Fires," Oxford pp. 52-61  
"Han's Crime," (Keene pp. 261-271) 𑄎  
"At Kinosaki," (Keene pp. 272-277) 𑄎

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> Natsume Sôseki  
Readings: *Kokoro* pp. 1-96

Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> Natsume Sôseki  
Readings: *Kokoro* pp. 97-192

Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> Nagai Kafû, Shimazaki Tôson  
Readings: "The Mediterranean in Twilight," Columbia pp. 213-217  
"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 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> • Thanksgiving Break ••

## Week Eleven

Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> Akutagawa Ryûnosuke, Tanizaki Jun'ichirô  
Readings: "The Nose," Columbia pp. 342-346  
"The Christ of Nanking," Columbia pp. 347-355  
"In a Grove," Oxford pp. 95-102  
"The Two Acolytes," Columbia pp. 539-554  
"Okuni and Gohei," Columbia pp. 627-639  
"Aguri," Oxford pp. 62-73

Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> Kawabata Yasunari, Hayashi Fumiko  
Readings: "The Dancing Girl of Izu," Oxford pp. 129-149  
"The Mole" (Keene pp. 366-375) ■  
"The Accordion and the Fish Town," Oxford pp. 154-171  
"Tokyo" (Keene pp. 415-428) ■

Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> War and its aftermath  
Readings: "December 8th," Columbia pp. 660-667  
"Soldiers Alive," Columbia pp. 667-675  
"Blind Chinese Soldiers," Oxford pp. 182-186  
"Merry Christmas," Oxford pp. 224-231  
"Prize Stock," Oxford pp. 351-390

## Week Twelve

Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> Okamoto Kanako, Kôno Taeko, Enchi Fumiko

Readings: "Portrait of an Old Geisha," Oxford pp. 79-94  
"Toddler-hunting," Oxford pp. 313-333  
"The Flower Eating Crone," Oxford pp. 172-181

Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> Abe Kôbô, Mishima Yukio

Readings: "The Bet," Oxford pp. 264-287  
"The Magic Chalk" (Gessel pp. 63-75) ㊦  
"Onnagata," Oxford pp. 293-312  
"The Boy Who Wrote Poetry" (Hibbett pp. 282-291) ㊦

Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> Murakami Haruki, Yoshimoto Banana

Readings: "The Elephant Vanishes," Oxford pp. 400-416  
"On Meeting My 100% Woman..." (Mitsios pp. 23-26) ㊦  
"Desert Dolphin," Oxford pp. 417-431  
"Kitchen" (Mitsios pp. 152-171) ㊦

**Final Exam Period: December 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>**