

## Japanese Popular Media and Culture

## Section 1

Instructor/Title	Mark Hollstein, Ph.D./Associate Professor
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**Course Description:**

This course examines Japanese history, society and culture through the lens of popular media. It focuses primarily on manga, anime, and television drama. However, a variety of other media—such as pop music, theatre and live-action film—will be discussed as they relate to these three main media. The course will begin with a look at the historical development of comic art in the Edo and Meiji periods, with primary attention paid to how the confluence of traditional Japanese art and Western techniques and style helped shape today's popular media. Next, we will examine the uses of *manga* and *anime* in the wartime and postwar periods by focusing on their development from propaganda to works of mature social criticism. Of particular interest will be how these works both reflect and shape the debate over Japan's postwar identity. We will then examine the means of production, distribution and consumption of *manga* and anime in Japan and the relationship between popular art and high art in Japan. Our attention will then turn to television dramas in Japan. We will examine their relationship with *manga* and *anime* while discussing how they deal with and influence a variety of current social issues including treatment of the physically handicapped, the death penalty and LGBT rights. The course will finish with a look at the popularity and uses of popular media abroad and how they are influencing foreign understandings and attitudes about Japan.

## Section 2

**Course Objectives:**

This course will enable students to go beyond the entertainment value of Japanese popular media to discover their social and historical significance. Upon completion of this course, students should also be able to explain the major ideological and ontological debates that have shaped Japan's postwar society, and discuss some of the relevant social issues facing Japan today.

## Section 3

**Reading Materials:**

All readings are available in the "Assignments" section of Blackboard from which they can be read online or downloaded and printed out. The number preceding each reading assignment in the class schedule corresponds to its link number on the reading list.

## Class Schedule

Mon. 9/3: Course Introduction

### Development of Modern Manga and Anime

Wed. 9/5: **Read: (0) “The Unseamly Silverpiped Swingers,”** by Santo Kyōden, from *Manga of the Floating World*, by Adam L. Kern.

Mon. 9/10: **Read: (1) “A Thousand Years of Manga,”** by Frederik L. Schodt, from *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*.

**Look Over: (2) “The Introduction to Mr. Punch,”** From *The Great Genius of Mr. Punch*, by Jozef Togala.

Wed. 9/12: **Read: (4) “Theorizing Manga: Nationalism and Discourse on the Role of Wartime Manga”** by Rei Okamoto Inouye, From *Mechademia* Volume 4.

Mon. 9/17 **Read: (5) “Osamu Tezuka: A tribute to the God of Comics”** by Frederik L. Schodt, from from *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*.

Wed. 9/19: **Read: (5.3) “Movie in a Book,”** by Natsu Onoda Powers, from *God of Comics: Osamu Tezuka and the creation of Post-WWII Manga*.

Mon. 9/24: **Read: (6) and (7) “Chapter I, Once Upon a Time,”** in *Princess Knight*, by Tezuka Osamu; and **“All the Way from the Future”** and **“I Can’t Take a Test Without ‘Anki-pan,”** in *Doraemon: Gadget Cat From the Future*, by Fujiko F. Fujio.

### Gekiga and Japan’s Postwar Identity

Wed. 9/26: **Read: (8) “From a Darker Place”** by Paul Gravett, from *Manga: 60 Years of Japanese Comics*.

**Optional Reading: (9) “The Terateogenous Cystoma”** in *Black Jack*, by Tezuka Osamu.

Mon. 10/1: **Read: (10) and (10.1) “Abandon the Old in Tokyo”** and **“Eel”** by Tatsumi Yoshiharu, from *Abandon the Old in Tokyo and Other Stories*; and **“Screw Style”** by Tsuge Yoshiharu, from *The Comics Journal* no. 250.

**Optional Readings: (11) and (12) “Tatasumi’s Long Journey”** by Kai-Ming Cha, from *Publishers Weekly* August 1, 2006, and **“On Top of the Mountain: The Influential Manga of Yoshiharu Tsuge”** by Beatrice Marechal, from *The Comics Journal: Special Edition* Volume 5.

Wed. 10/3: **Read: (13) Excerpt from *Barefoot Gen*,** by Keiji Nakazawa.

- Mon. 10/8: **Read:** (12) “Remaking Master Narratives: Anime Confronts History” and “No More Words: Barefoot Gen, Grave of the Fireflies and ‘Victims’ History” by Susan J. Napier, from *Anime: From Akira to Howl’s Moving Castle*.
- Optional Reading:** (15) “Transcending the Victim’s History: Takahata Isao’s *Grave of the Fireflies*” by Wendy Goldberg, from *Mechademia, Volume 4*.
- Wed. 10/10: **Read:** (16) “Cleansing History, Cleansing Japan: Kobayashi Yoshinori’s Analects of War and Japan’s Revisionist Revival” by Rebecca Clifford, Nissan Occasional Paper Series No. 35.
- Optional Reading:** (17) “Three Views of the Rising Sun, Obliquely: Keiji Nakazawa’s A-bomb, Osama Tezuka’s *Adolf*, and Yoshinori Kobayashi’s Apologia” by Sheng-mei Ma, from *Mechademia, Volume 4*.
- Mon. 10/15: **Read:** (17.1) “Oishimbo’s Fukushima Elegy: Grasping for Truth about Radiation in a Food Manga,” By Lauri Brau, from *Fukushima and the Arts: Negotiating Nuclear Disaster*.
- Wed. 10/17: **Quiz 1 and Discussion**
- Manga and Anime as Art and Business**
- Mon. 10/22: **Read:** (18) “Making Murakami” by Paul Schimmel, from *Murakami, Los Angeles : Museum of Contemporary Art ; New York : Rizzoli, 2007*.
- Wed. 10/24: **Read:** (20) “The Manga Production Cycle” by Sharon Kinsella, from *Adult Manga*.
- Mon. 10/29: **No Class (Fall Break)**
- Wed. 10/31: **The Anime Production Process**  
**Midterm Essay Due**
- Mon. 11/5: **Read:** (20.1) “Miyazaki and Takahata Anime Cinema,” by Tse-Yue G. Hu, from *Frames of Anime: Culture and Image-Building*.
- Wed. 11/7: **Read:** (21) “Interpreting *Oshin*—War History and Women in Modern Japan” by Paul A.S. Harvey, from *Women Media and Consumption in Japan*.
- Mon. 11/12: **Read:** (23) “The Representation of Femininity in Japanese Television Dramas of the 1990s” by ITO Mamoru, from *Feeling Asian Modernities: Transnational Consumption of Japanese TV Dramas*.
- Wed. 11/14: **Read:** (24) “Empowering Love: The Intertextual Author of Ren’ai Dorama” by Eva Tsai, from *Feeling Asian Modernities: Transnational Consumption of Japanese TV Dramas*.
- Mon. 11/19: **Quiz: 2 and Discussion**

- Wed. 11/21: **Read: (25) “The Mass Media and Japan’s Invisible Death Chamber Drama”** by Mark Hollstein
- Mon. 11/26: **Read: (25.5)** Recent newspaper articles about the death penalty in Japan.
- Wed. 11/28: **Read: (26) “Chapter 1: The Black Ships Arrive,” and “Chapter 2: Tempera Sushi,”** in *My Brother’s Husband* , by Gengoroh Tagame, Patheon, 2017.

**The Power of Japanese Drama, Manga, and Anime Abroad**

- Mon. 12/3: **Read: (26.1). “Cultural Contact with Japanese Dramas: Modes Reception and Narrative Transparency”** by Dong-Hoo Lee, from *Feeling Asian Modernities: Transnational Consumption of Japanese TV Dramas*.
- Optional Reading: (27) “Popular Cultural Capital and Cultural Identity: Young Korean Women Women’s Cultural Appropriation of Japanese TV Dramas”** by Dong-Hoo Lee, from *East Asian Pop Culture: Analyzing the Korean Wave*.
- Wed. 12/5: **Read: (28) and (29) “Winter Sonata and Cultural Practices of Active Fans in Japan: Considering Middle-Aged Women”** by Yoshitaka Mori and “Touring ‘Dramatic Korea’ Japanese Women as Viewers of Hanryu Dramas and Tourists on Hanryu Tours” by Yukie Hirata, both from *East Asian Pop Culture: Analyzing the Korean Wave*.
- Mon. 12/10: **Read: (30) “The Americanization of Anime and Manga Negotiating Popular Culture”** by Antonia Levi, from *Cinema Anime: Critical Engagements with Japanese Animation*.
- Optional Reading: (31) “Differing Destinations: Cultural Identification, Orientalism, and Soft Power in the Twenty-first Century Anime Fandom”** by Susan Napier in *From Impressionism to Anime*.
- Wed. 12/12: **Read: (32) “Japan’s Growing Cultural Power: The Example of Manga in France”** by Jean-Marie Bouissou, *Reading Manga: Local and global Perceptions of Japanese Comics*, Leipziger Universitätverlag, pp.149-165, 2006.
- Optional Reading: (33) “Speech by Minister for Foreign Affairs Taro Aso at Digital Hollywood University,”** Ministry of Foreign Affairs: <https://www.mofa.go.jp/announce/fm/aso/speech0604-2.html>

**Final Essays Due**

## **Section 4**

### **Grading:**

Quizzes: 40%

Midterm Essay: 15%

Final Essay: 15 %

Final Exam: 20%

Class Participation: 10%

### **Quizzes:**

Three quizzes will be given over the course of the semester; they will be comprised of 25 true-or-false and multiple-choice questions. You will have about 35-40 minutes to answer, after which we will correct and discuss the answers in class.

### **Essays:**

A set of essay question will be provide on Blackboard at least two weeks before the due date. You will be asked to pick one question to answer in four to five (about 1,000 words) typed pages. In your essay you should demonstrate that you have done the appropriate assigned readings by paraphrasing and directly quoting the author(s). You do not have to do any independent research for this assignment. Your completed responses should be uploaded to the essay assignment page on Blackboard by the due date.

### **Course Readings and Other Materials:**

There will be a reading assignment for each day of class. These can be found on Blackboard in the "Assignments" folder. PowerPoint presentations used in class, the course syllabus, instructions for the final paper and other relevant course materials will also be posted in either the "Assignments" or "Documents" folders on Blackboard.

### **Participation:**

Attendance will generally be taken by circulating a roll during class. If you come late, it is your responsibility to make sure you sign the roll. If you must be absent, please talk to me before the class you will miss to see if your absence can be excused. Your score in this category depends upon BOTH regular attendance and regular participation.