

Literary Representations of Diverse Eras

Section 1

Instructor/Title	Ghosh Dastidar, Debasrita
Office/Building	Main admin bldg. 805
Office Hours	12:20-1:00

【Course Outline / Description】

This course will facilitate students to discover the beauty of Japanese Literature. Students will analyze the literary works from each period of Japanese history and identify with the distinctive features. The course would be divided into five sections namely, ancient, classical, medieval, modern and post war period. The lectures will focus on key aspects of each period and the representative works followed by in-class discussion. Students will be given take home readings or asked to explore and analyze the particular topic. Active student engagement and participation is encouraged for critical analysis and understanding of each module. Students will involve in individual, pair or group work. Each week there will be one out-of-class compulsory reading or other suggested readings. Basic knowledge of Japanese society and culture would be an advantage but not a requirement for the course.

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Students should be able to;

- Name representative writers and works of each period of Japanese literary history.
- Describe how Japanese literature develops with time.
- Identify the key literary features of Japanese history.
- Recognize the socio-political background of each period and how it affects individuals and subsequently influence literary works.
- Summarize own opinion on the development of Japanese literature.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Course schedule

Week	Session	Topic
1	1	Orientation: Out of class reading: Japanese Mythology
	2	Early Japan: Kuni Umi and Kami Umi Out of class reading: Nara Period
2	3	Kojiki, Nihon Shoki, Manyoshu Out of class reading: Heian Period history
	4	Genji Monogatari Out of class reading: Heian Period Culture
3	5	Makura no Soshi Out of class reading: Kamakura Period
	6	Heike Monogatari Out of class reading: Edo Period history

2024 Fall Semester

4	7	Matsuo Basho (Oku no Hosomichi) Out of class reading: Edo Period culture
	8	Chikamatsu Monzaemon (Double suicides of Sonezaki) Out of class reading: Edo period literature
5	9	Edo Period: Play by students (Double suicides of Sonezaki) Out of class reading: Presentation Preparation
	10	Preparatory session: Mid-term Presentation Out of class reading: Presentation Preparation
6	11	Mid-term Presentation Out of class reading: Meiji period history
	12	Modernization: Natsume Soseki: Botchan Out of class reading: Meiji period culture
7	13	Modernization: Mori Ogai: Maihime Out of class reading: Taisho period History
	14	Modernization: Akutagawa Ryunosuke: Rashomon Out of class reading: Taisho period culture
8	15	Modernization: Akutagawa Ryunosuke: Rashomon Out of class reading: Taisho period Literature
	16	Modernization: Kawabata Yasunari: Izu no Odoriko Out of class reading: Taisho period Literature
9	17	Modernization: Taisho period: Kawabata Yasunari: Izu no Odoriko Out of class reading: Showa Period History
	18	Rise of Militarism: WWI Out of class reading: Showa Period History
10	19	Showa Literature Out of class reading: Showa Period History
	20	Post war literature: Mishima Yukio: Golden Temple Out of class reading: Showa Period History
11	21	Post war literature: Mishima Yukio* Golden Temple Out of class reading: Showa Period Culture
	22	Post war literature: Abe Kobo: Suna no Onna Out of class reading: Showa Period Culture
12	23	Post war literature: Abe Kobo: Suna no Onna Out of class reading: Showa Period Culture
	24	Post war literature: Banana Yoshimoto: Kitchen Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
13	25	Post war literature: Banana Yoshimoto: Kitchen Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
	26	Post war literature: Murakami Haruki: Norwegian Wood Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
14	27	Post war literature: Murakami Haruki: Norwegian Wood Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature
	28	Preparatory session: Final Presentation/ essay Out of class reading: Contemporary Literature

2024 Fall Semester

15	29	Final Presentation/essay
	30	Course review & Feed back

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

Keene, Donald (1994) *Anthology of Japanese Literature*, Grove Press

Keene, Donald (1994) *Modern Japanese Literature: From 1868 to the Present Day*, Grove Press

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Assessment:

Final Exam 20% (Presentation and Essay)

Midterm Exam 20% (Presentation and Essay)

Writing assignments 40%

Participation and journal 20%

Mid-term & Final presentations will be assessed as below (20 points each);

Content: Presentation shows valuable material and relevance of topic.

Background research: Evidence of Literature review, research methods and analysis of findings.

Organization Well organized and easy to follow slides.

Delivery: Speak clearly, Tone and clarity of words, use of vocabulary,

Interaction: Engaged the audience. Body language and eye contact

Section 5

【Additional Information】

Study packets for the course will be provided on the day of Orientation.
