

Fiction in Action

Six Japanese Novels and their Film Adaptations

Section 1

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【Course Outline / Description】

After a general introduction, the course will develop on six distinctive segments, each of them giving the students the opportunity to explore and analyze fully the characteristics of six different narratives — ranging from ghost stories to caricature, from social commentary to love stories and drama — as listed below:

Texts here:

1. Lafcadio Hearn, “Earless Hoichi” in *Kwaidan* (1904)
2. Ueda Akinari, “The Reed Choked House” and “A Serpent’s Lust” in *Tales of Rain and Moonlight* (1776)
3. Abe Kobo, *The Woman in the Dunes* (1962)
4. Tanizaki Junichiro, *Naomi* (1925)
5. Murakami Haruki, “Tony Takitani” in *Blind Willow, Sleeping Women* (1999)
6. Minato Kanae, *Confessions* (2008)

and their corresponding film versions here:

1. Kobayashi Masaki, *Kwaidan* [only the “Earless Hoichi” section] (1964)
2. Mizoguchi Kenji, *Ugetsu* (1953)
3. Teshigahara Hiroshi, *The Woman in the Dunes* (1964)
4. Masumura Yasuzō, *An idiot in Love* (1967)
5. Ichikawa Jun, *Tony Takitani* (2004)
6. Nakashima Tetsuya, *Confessions* (2010)

Each class is designed to study in depth the key elements of the novels / short stories and their corresponding film adaptations.

The plots and narrative elements of the different stories will be analyzed, balancing textual and visual analysis, with discussions on how the stories are structured (looking at the characters' features, the relationships they form, the themes developed etc.).

The classes will also provide the students with information on how fiction connects with issues in Japanese society and culture (the disruptions of war, ambitions, bullying at school, love and marriage, the applications of morals, the construction of modern identity etc.).

Section 2

【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

This course is meant to develop the students’ ability to interpret and contextualize prominent

modern and contemporary Japanese works which, beside national popularity, gained international recognition as well.

The students will thus acquire notions of critical thinking, discipline and learn methods to compare, describe and analyze precisely and in detail what constitutes a good story / movie. They will also gain perspectives on how directors adapt / change the author's text to form their own movie versions.

Section 3

【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

Date	Class #	Contents	Assignment (preparation / activities)	Class mode
01/26 (水)	1	Course introduction : presentation of the different stories that will be studied in class and grading system.	N/A	Z
01/31 (月)	2	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 1 Movie (watch)	Gather information about the director and the movie. > Kobayashi Masaki, <i>Kwaidan</i> (1964) Watch the movie and notes the characteristics of the different characters, chart their relationships. + Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)	HW
02/02 (水)	3	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 2 Movie (discuss)	Discuss the different characters and their relationship as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.	Z
02/07 (月)	4	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 3 Short Story (read)	Gather information about the author and read the short story. > Lafcadio Hearn, <i>Kwaidan</i> (1904) Read the short story (PDF available on the course website)	HW
02/09 (水)	5	Kwaidan, Earless Hoichi / 4 Short Story (discuss)	Locate in the short story the main key elements (look at the vocabulary, the way the characters are described, their actions etc.)	Z
02/14 (月)	6	Ugetsu / 1 Movie (watch)	Gather information about the director and the movie. > Mizoguchi Kenji, <i>Ugetsu</i> (1953) Watch the movie and list the different	HW

			characters and chart their relationships. Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)	
02/16 (水)	7	Ugetsu / 2 Movie (discuss)	Discuss the different characters and their relationship as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.	Z
02/21 (月)	8	Ugetsu / 3 Short stories (read)	Read the short story “The Reed Choked House” (Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Rain and Moonlight</i> (1776)) (PDF available on the course website)	HW
02/23 (水)	9	Emperor’s Birthday = Holiday		休み
02/28 (月)	10	Ugetsu / 4 Short stories (read)	Read the short story “A Serpent’s lust” (Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Rain and Moonlight</i> (1776)) (PDF available on the course website)	HW
03/02 (水)	11	Ugetsu / 5 Short stories (discuss)	Compare the elements written in the short stories with the elements seen in the movie.	Z
03/07 (月)	12	The Woman in the Dunes / 1 Movie (watch)	Gather information about the director and the movie. > Teshigahara Hiroshi, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i> (1964) Watch the movie and list the different characters and chart their relationships. Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)	HW
03/09 (水)	13	The Woman in the Dunes / 2 Movie (discuss)	Discuss the different characters and their relationship as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.	Z
03/14 (月)	14	The Woman in the Dunes / 3 Novel (read)	Read the selected passages from the novel (Abe Kobo, <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i> (1962)) (PDF available on the course website)	HW
03/16 (水)	15	The Woman in the Dunes / 4 Novel (discuss)	Be ready to analyze and discuss the man and his actions, the woman and the sand, as described in the novel passages.	Z

		※ Midterm essay / Topics	Be ready to get the documents with the list of different topics you can write on for your essay (paper 1). Deadline: 2021/04/11	
03/21 (月) 03/23 (水)	休 み	Spring Break		休み
03/28 (月)	16	Naomi / 1 Movie (watch)	Gather information about the director and the movie. > Masumura Yasuzo, <i>An Idiot in Love</i> (1967) Watch the movie and list the different characters and chart their relationships. Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)	HW
03/30 (水)	17	Naomi / 2 Movie (discuss)	Be ready to discuss the different characters and their relationship as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.	Z
04/04 (月)	18	Naomi / 3 Novel (read)	Read the selected passages from the novel (Tanizaki Junichiro, <i>Naomi</i> (1925)) (PDF available on the course website)	HW
04/06 (水)	19	Naomi / 4 Novel (discuss)	Be ready to discuss the different elements of the novel (part 1).	Z
04/11 (月)	20	※ Deadline midterm essay (paper 1)	Send me your essay by email before the end of the day (your time).	HW
04/13 (水)	21	Naomi / 5 Novel (discuss)	Be ready to discuss the different elements of the novel (part 2).	Z
04/18 (月)	22	Tony Takitani / 1 Movie (watch)	Gather information about the director and the movie. > Ichikawa Jun, <i>Tony Takitani</i> (2004) Watch the movie and list the different characters and chart their relationships. Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)	HW

04/20 (水)	23	Tony Takitani / 2 Movie (discuss)	Discuss the different characters and their relationship as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.	Z
04/25 (月)	24	Tony Takitani / 3 Short story (read)	Read the short story (Murakami Haruki, "Tony Takitani" in <i>Blind Willow, Sleeping Women</i> (1999)). (PDF available on the course website)	HW
04/27 (水)	25	Tony Takitani / 4 Short story (discuss)	Be ready to analyze and discuss the way the short story is structured and how the characters are described.	Z
05/02 (月)	26	※ Final essay / topics	Be ready to get the documents with the list of different topics you can write on for your essay (paper 2). Deadline: 2021/05/16	HW
05/04 (水)	休 み	Golden Week		休み
05/09 (月)	27	Confessions / 1 Movie (watch)	Gather information about the director and the movie. > Nakashima Tetsuya, <i>Confessions</i> (2010) Watch the movie and list the different characters and chart their relationships. Note the use of music, colors and the development of the story (action). (Use the worksheet available on the course website)	HW
05/11 (水)	28	Confessions / 2 Movie (discuss)	Be ready to discuss the different characters and their relationship as well as the visual and musical elements used in the movie.	Z
05/16 (月)	29	Confessions / 3 Novel (read)	Read the selected passages from the novel (Minato Kanae, <i>Confessions</i> (2008)). (PDF available on the course website)	HW
		※ Deadline final essay (paper 2)	Send me your essay by email before the end of the day (your time).	
05/18 (水)	30	Confessions / 4 Novel (discuss)	Be ready to discuss the different elements of the novel.	Z

Class mode key:

- Z = synchronous "Zoom" session
- HW = asynchronous "homework" session

- 休み = *yasumi* / no classes

Note:

This schedule may be subject to change and please keep in mind that a more definite syllabus will be sent to you during orientation week (around January 18, 2022).

【Textbooks/Reading Materials】

No textbook required.

All reading materials (worksheets, short stories, book passages etc.) will be made available on the dedicated course website (link available after the enrollment is complete).

Handouts will also be given via the course website after a movie / story has been fully discussed to sum up and complement the points seen during the lectures. For further reference, please find below the list of books and movies, (in English and Japanese) that will be used in this class. BlackBoard will NOT be used.

Novels / Short Stories

- Lafcadio Hearn, *Kwaidan* (1904)(Stone Bridge Press, 2006)
- ラフカディオ ハーン(小泉八雲), 「怪談」(ポプラ社, 2005)
- Ueda Akinari [trans. Anthony H. Chambers], “The Reed Choked House” and “A Serpent’s Lust” in *Tales of moonlight and rain* (Columbia University Press, 2007)
- 上田秋成、“浅茅が宿”と“蛇性の姪”「雨月物語」(1776)(筑摩書房, 1997)
- Abe Kobo [trans. E. Dale Saunders], *The Woman in the Dunes*, (Boston: Tuttle Publishing, 2000, c.1964)
- 安部公房、「砂の女」(1962)(東京: 新潮社, 2003)
- Tanizaki Junichirō [trans. Anthony H. Chambers], *Naomi* (Boston; Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing, 2000)
- 谷崎潤一郎、「痴人の愛」(1924-1925 / 1947)(東京: 新潮社, 2003)
- Murakami Haruki, “Tony Takitani” in *Blind Willow, Sleeping women*, trans. Philip Gabriel and Jay Rubin (London: Vintage, 2010, c.2006), pp.225-248
- 村上春樹、“トニー滝谷”「レキシントンの幽霊」(東京: 文藝春秋, 1999)
- Minato Kanae, *Confessions*, trans. Stephen Snyder (New-York: Mulholland books, 2014)
- 湊かなえ、「告白」(東京: 双葉社, 2008-2010)

Movies

- Kobayashi Masaki, *Kwaidan* (Japan, 1964) / 小林正樹、「怪談」
- Mizoguchi Kenji, *Ugetsu* (Japan, 1953) / 溝口健二、「雨月物語」
- Teshigahara Hiroshi, *The Woman in the Dunes* (Japan, 1964) / 勅使河原宏、「砂の女」
- Masumura Yasuzō, *An Idiot in Love* (Japan, 1967) / 増村保造、「痴人の愛」
- Ishikawa Jun, *Tony Takitani* (Japan, 2004) / 市川準、「トニー滝谷」
- Nakashima Tetsuya, *Confessions* (Japan, 2010) / 中島哲也、「告白」

Section 4

【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】

Instruction to students

Students are required to come to class prepared and ready to discuss the movies and the texts (novels, short stories).

During Zoom sessions (synchronous classes), having the camera on, at least when speaking, will be required. Make sure your internet connexion is stable and allowing such use.

As for asynchronous classes, the students will have to consult the course website for material and instructions as well as comment activities.

Concerning the midterm and final exams, the students will be required to write two different 1500 words essays, in which they will have to focus on in depth analysis, research and make sure they edit their essay using *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Concerning class participation, the grade will be based on the student's implication during Zoom discussions as well as in answering the questions prompted on the course website.

Grading

Midterms: 35% (essay paper 1 (topics given on 03/16. Deadline 04/11))

Finals: 35% (essay paper 2 (topics given on 05/02. Deadline 05/16))

Class participation: 30% (synchronous Zoom meetings and course website comments / activities)

Section 5

【Additional Information】

N/A