



CIEE Kyoto, Japan

Course name:	Japanese Literature
Course number:	LITT 2001 KYJA
Programs offering course:	Ancient and Modern Japan
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

This course surveys the historic roots and contemporary expressions of the Japanese literary tradition. Students will read excerpts from seminal works from different periods, with a focus on the narratives surrounding social class and gender.

Learning Objectives

By completing the course, students will be able to:

- Identify both major and minor writers and literary movements in Japanese literary history;
- Explain historical and formal characteristics of Japanese literary texts;
- Analyze Japanese literary texts in relation to literary theories as well as sociopolitical issues; and
- Develop and support arguments using textual evidence from primary and secondary sources.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The course will be taught through lectures by the instructor and group discussions led by the students. Based on our readings of primary sources (such as novels, short stories, and essays) and secondary sources (such as scholarly articles), we will generate questions collectively and address them via oral and written discussions.

Assessment and Final Grade

1.	Class Participation:	15%
2.	Response Papers (5 total):	25%
3.	Midterm Presentation:	10%
4.	Midterm Paper:	15%
5.	Final Presentation:	15%
6.	Final Paper:	20%



Course Requirements

Class Participation

You are expected to follow CIEE's attendance and participation policies as outlined in the CIEE Academic Manual for students.

Response Papers (5 total)

You will submit 5 Response Papers (RPs) throughout the semester, each worth 5% of your course grade. They will provide opportunities to explore issues of interest to you that emerge in the texts we read for class. The RPs will be 375–500 English words in length. They are graded on content, organization, writing, and clarity. (Your RP #5 will serve as a proposal for your Final Paper.) More details will be provided in class.

Midterm Presentation

You will give a Midterm Presentation (MTPreso) during Week 7, to receive feedback from your classmates about the ideas you are developing for your Midterm Paper (due Week 8; please see below). Your MTPreso will be 5–7 minutes in length and delivered in English. It will be graded on content, organization, clarity, and delivery. More details will be provided in class.

Midterm Paper

You will submit a Midterm Paper (MTP) during Week 8. It will make an argument about some aspect of the concept of “Modern Japanese literature” by analyzing the form and content of one of the texts we read in class up until that point. Your MTP will be 1,200–1,400 English words in length and graded on content, organization, writing, and clarity. More details will be provided in class.

Final Presentation

You will give a Final Presentation (FPreso) during Week 14, to receive feedback from your classmates about the ideas you are developing for your Final Paper (due Week 15; please see below). Your FPreso will be 8–10 minutes in length and delivered in English. It will be graded on content, organization, clarity, and delivery. More details will be provided in class.

Final Paper

You will submit a Final Paper (FP) during the last class meeting of Week 15. It will make an argument about the relationship between literature and sociopolitical issues by performing a comparative analysis of one of the texts read in the second half of class *and* another text of your choice (either from class or not; a Japanese text or not). It will also require you to incorporate at least two secondary sources to make your argument. Your RP #5 will serve as a proposal for your FP. The FP will be 1,600–2,000 English words in length and graded on content, organization, writing, and clarity. More details will be provided in class.



Weekly Schedule

Week 1

- 1.1 Introduction to the course and to each other**
This session enables us to understand the goals of the class and the expectations for your performance. We will also get to know each other better!
- 1.2 What is poetry?**
We ask what forms poetry can take.
Reading due: *Ogura Hyakunin Isshu*, #1–10
- 1.3 What is a novel?**
We ask what characteristics define a novel.
Reading due: *The Tale of Genji*, Chapter 1. The Paulownia Court

Week 2

- 2.1 What is literature?**
We ask what qualifies as literature, and who decides.
Reading due: *The Tale of Genji*, Chapter 2. The Broom Tree
❖ **Submit Response Paper #1**
- 2.2 What is Japanese literature?**
We ask what qualifies as Japanese literature, and who decides.
Reading due: *The Tale of Genji*, Chapter 3. The Shell of the Locust
- 2.3 What is translation?**
We ask what the implications and considerations of translation are.
Reading due: Miyoshi 1979

Week 3

- 3.1 What is interpretation?**
We ask what the significance and cautions of interpretation are.
❖ **Submit Response Paper #2**
- 3.2 What is Japan?**
We ask what Japan is (and is not).
Reading due: Okakura 1889
- 3.3 How do we read Japanese literature?**
We discuss various ways to approach, read, and enjoy Japanese literature.
Reading due: Karatani 2008

Week 4

- 4.1 What is an individual?**
We ask what defines an individual.

Reading due: Rubin 1979; Sōseki 1914

4.2 Who are the Japanese?

We ask what defines the Japanese nation and its people.

Reading due: Yanagita 1929

4.3 What are myths?

We ask what myths frame our lives and culture.

Reading due: Fujitani 1992

Week 5

5.1 What is an empire?

We ask what empire and imperialism are.

Reading due: Yuasa 1934, ch. 1–5

❖ **Submit Response Paper #3**

5.2 What is a colony?

We ask what colonies and colonialism are.

Reading due: Yuasa 1934, ch. 6–11

5.3 What is gender? (Part 1 of 2)

We ask how society constructs the concept of gender, and why.

Week 6

6.1 What is gender? (Part 2 of 2)

Reading due: Miyamoto 1946

6.2 What is marriage?

We ask how marriage is constructed and valued in society.

Reading due: de Barry 1984–1985

6.3 What is war?

We ask what war is and what it does.

Reading due: Mishima 1955

Week 7

7.1 What is modern?

We ask what qualifies as modern and how it is emphasized in the world.

❖ **Midterm Presentations (Day 1 of 3)**

7.2 What is modern Japan?

We ask what Japan's modernization project has entailed.

❖ **Midterm Presentations (Day 2 of 3)**

7.3 What is modern Japanese literature?



We ask what the characteristics of modern Japanese literature are.

❖ **Midterm Presentations (Day 3 of 3)**

Week 8

8.1 What is family?

We ask how family is constructed and how it is valued in society.

Reading due: Ariyoshi 1956

8.2 What are race and class?

We ask how society constructs the concepts of race and class, and why.

Reading due: Ariyoshi 1959

8.3 What is tradition?

We ask how tradition is constructed and valued in society.

❖ **Submit Midterm Paper**

Week 9

9.1 What is contemporary?

We ask what qualifies as contemporary and how it is emphasized in the world.

Reading due: Mukōda 1980–1985, pp. 7–61

9.2 What is contemporary Japan?

We ask what some characteristics of contemporary Japan are.

Reading due: Mukōda 1980–1985, pp. 62–107

9.3 What is contemporary Japanese literature?

We ask what some characteristics of contemporary Japanese literature are.

Reading due: Mukōda 1980–1985, pp. 108–152

Week 10

10.1 What is memory? (Part 1 of 3)

We ask what the significance of memory is in retelling traumatic events.

Reading due: Medoruma 1999

❖ **Submit Response Paper #4**

10.2 What is memory? (Part 2 of 3)

Reading due: Ikeda 2014

10.3 What is memory? (Part 3 of 3)

Week 11

11.1 What is time?

We ask how the concept of time organizes our thoughts and lives.

Reading due: Murakami 2005, “Hanalei Bay”

11.2 What is history?
 We ask how history is constructed and by whom.
 Reading due: Murakami 2005, “Small island”

11.3 What is society?
 We ask what society is and what it does.
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Mission 1 (pp. 1–67)

Week 12

12.1 What is community? (Part 1 of 3)
 We ask what community is and what it does.
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Mission 2 (pp. 69–124)
 ❖ **Submit Response Paper #5 (Proposal for Final Paper)**

12.2 What is community? (Part 2 of 3)
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Mission 3 (pp. 125–174)

12.3 What is community? (Part 3 of 3)
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Mission 4 (pp. 175–205)

Week 13

13.1 What is a relationship? (Part 1 of 3)
 We ask what relationships are and how they are evaluated in society.
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Mission 5 (pp. 207–245)

13.2 What is a relationship? (Part 2 of 3)
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Mission 6 (pp. 247–385)

13.3 What is a relationship? (Part 3 of 3)
 Reading due: *Train Man* 2004, Post-fin (pp. 387–403)

Week 14

14.1 Literature, society, and politics (Part 1 of 3)
 We ask what the relationship is between literature and sociopolitical issues.
 ❖ **Final Presentations (Day 1 of 3)**

14.2 Literature, society, and politics (Part 2 of 3)
 ❖ **Final Presentations (Day 2 of 3)**

14.3 Literature, society, and politics (Part 3 of 3)
 ❖ **Final Presentations (Day 3 of 3)**

Week 15

15.1 What does the future hold?
 We ask what the future holds—for Japan, for the world, and for you.



Reading due: Yoshimoto 2011

15.2 How can literature affect the future?

We ask how literature has affected the past—and how it can affect the future.

15.3 Conclusion

This session concludes the course. Congratulations on getting this far!

Submit Final Paper

Course Materials

Readings

Ariyoshi Sawako. "Jiuta." Tr. Yukio Suwa and Herbert Glazer. *Japan Quarterly*, vol. 22, no. 1, 1 Jan. 1975, pp. 40–58.

Ariyoshi Sawako. "The Village of Eguchi." Tr. Yukio Suwa and Herbert Glazer. *Japan Quarterly*, vol. 18, no. 4, 1 Oct. 1971, pp. 427–442.

de Bary, Brett. "Wind and Leaves: Miyamoto Yuriko's *The Weathervane Plant*." *Journal of the Association of Teachers of Japanese*, vol. 19, no. 1, 1984, pp. 7–33.

Fujitani, Takashi. "Electronic Pageantry and Japan's 'Symbolic Emperor'." *Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 51, no. 4, 1992, pp. 824–850.

Ikeda, Kyle. "Unarticulated Memories of the Battle of Okinawa: The Early Fiction of Second-Generation War Survivor Medoruma Shun." *positions*, vol. 22, no. 2, 2014, pp. 301–328.

Karatani Kōjin. "Rethinking Sōseki's Theory." *Japan Forum*, vol. 20, no. 1, 2008, pp. 9–15.

Medoruma Shun. "Mabuigumi." Tr. Kyle Ikeda. *Manoa*, vol. 23, no. 1, 2011, pp. 112–134.

Mishima Yukio. "Peonies." Tr. Anthony H. Chambers. *Manoa*, vol. 13, no. 1, 2001, pp. 51–54.

Miyamoto Yuriko. "*The Weathervane Plant*, Chapter 4." Tr. Brett de Bary. *The Journal of the Association of Teachers of Japanese*, vol. 19, no. 1, 1984, pp. 29–33.

Miyoshi, Masao. "Translation as Interpretation." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, vol. 38, no. 2, 1979, pp. 299–302.

Mukōda Kuniko. *The Name of the Flower: Stories*. Stone Bridge Press, 1994.

Murakami Haruki. "Hanalei Bay." *The Guardian*, 14 Apr. 2006, www.theguardian.com/books/2006/apr/15/harukimurakami.

Murakami Haruki. "Small island." *The Guardian*, 22 Apr. 2006, www.theguardian.com/books/2006/apr/22/fiction.originalwriting.

Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Tr. Edward G. Seidensticker. The University of Adelaide, 2014, <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/murasaki-shikibu/tale-of-genji/>.

Nakano Hitori. *Train Man*. Tr. Bonnie Elliott. Del Rey, 2007.

Natsume Sōseki. "My Individualism (*Watakushi no Kojinshugi*)." Tr. Jay Rubin. *Monumenta Nipponica*, vol. 34, no. 1, 1979, pp. 26–48.

Ogura Hyakunin Isshu. Japanese Text Initiative and the University of Virginia Library, 1998, iti.lib.virginia.edu/japanese/hyakunin/index.html.

Okakura Kakuzō. "Kokka (1889)." Tr. Timothy Unverzagt Goddard. *Review of Japanese Culture and Society*, vol. 24, 2012, pp. 176–183.

Rubin, Jay. "Sōseki on Individualism: 'Watakushi No Kojinshugi'." *Monumenta Nipponica*, vol. 34, no. 1, 1979, pp. 21–25.

Yanagita Kunio. "Excerpts from *The Legend of Japan* (1929)." Tr. David Humphrey. *Review of Japanese Culture and Society*, vol. 25, Dec. 2013, pp. 137–151.

Yoshimoto Banana. "Canaries in the Coal Mine." *The Nation*, vol. 293, no. 9/10, 2011, p. 24.

Yuasa Katsuei. *Kannani and Document of Flames: Two Japanese Colonial Novels*. Tr. Mark Driscoll. Duke University Press, 2005.

Online Resources

Ogura Hyakunin Isshu. Japanese Text Initiative and the University of Virginia Library, 1998, iti.lib.virginia.edu/japanese/hyakunin/index.html.

Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Tr. Edward G. Seidensticker. The University of Adelaide, 2014, <https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/m/murasaki-shikibu/tale-of-genji/>.

Murakami Haruki. "Hanalei Bay." *The Guardian*, 14 Apr. 2006, www.theguardian.com/books/2006/apr/15/harukimurakami.

Murakami Haruki. "Small island." *The Guardian*, 22 Apr. 2006, www.theguardian.com/books/2006/apr/22/fiction.originalwriting.