

East Asian Languages and Literatures 271 (Spring 2014)
Japanese Literature in Translation--Traditional (WI)

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Office Hours: Wed. 2:30-3PM and by appointment

Class Hours: MWF 11:30-12:20 in Moore 112

Course Description:

This course is a survey of pre-1868 (pre-Meiji/premodern) Japanese literature, in which some 30 major literary works from the eighth through the late-eighteenth century are introduced. The majority of works are excerpted, and students are not expected to conduct their own research to fill in the lacunae. Rather, through the method of close reading, students are expected to acquire and demonstrate firsthand knowledge of selected canonical texts of Japanese literature.

Although the instructor will provide background information on the socio-cultural and intellectual history of Japan as it relates to the production of each text, you will not succeed in this course without actively reading all the assigned primary texts, and assessing them critically. **Designated as “writing intensive,”** the course is both “reading intensive” and “writing intensive.” Over the course of the semester, you will write six short papers (3 pages each, except for the last one, which is 4 pages long).

Writing is a holistic process; first, you must propose your own paper topic and consult with the instructor each time, either in person or by email. Second, you must develop your own original ideas and express them in accordance with the stylistic rules and conventions of academic writing. Third, you will receive written feedback (not necessarily micro-editing) from the instructor, and will have an opportunity to revise your paper.

Memorization of a significant amount of factual material (names, dates, titles, literary terminology, etc.) that is introduced in class is another key to success, and you are expected to analyze the texts, both in class, in exams and in written assignments, using the appropriate terms to express your thoughts.

Attendance will be taken, and students with poor attendance (more than six absences) as well as those who constantly come to class late or unprepared may suffer a full letter grade reduction.

Textbooks:

There are two required texts. Both are available at the UHM Bookstore.

Haruo Shirane, ed. *Traditional Japanese Literature: An Anthology, Beginnings to 1600*. Columbia University Press, 2007. (\$40/30) (T)

Haruo Shirane, ed. *Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology, 1600-1900*. Columbia University

Press, 2002. (\$35/26) (E)

Occasionally, supplementary reading material will be posted on Laulima. (L)

Requirements and Evaluation

- Classroom performance and participation: 15%
- 6 short papers (3 pages each, last paper 4 pages, including topic proposal for each): 60%
- In-class midterm exam (multiple choice): 10 %
- Final examination (multiple choice): 15 %

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course should be able to:

1. Identify and describe the major authors, works, genres, themes and styles of Japanese literature from the eighth through eighteenth century.
2. Analyze and interpret translated works of pre-modern Japanese poetry, prose, drama and critical writings, and discuss the development of the major themes and styles among them in writing.
3. Situate and evaluate specificities of literary production in premodern Japan in the socio-historical and intellectual context, as well as vis-à-vis “world literature” of the present and the past.

Schedule

Week 1: The Beginnings of Japanese Literature

- 1) Mon. 13 Jan. Introduction: The Goals and Structure of the Class ↓ **Nara Period: 710-784**
- 2) Wed. 15 Jan. *The Records of Ancient Matters (Kojiki, 712)* Book 1 (T, pp. 23-36)
- 3) Fri. 17 Jan. *Kojiki*, cont. Book 2 (T, pp. 37-44)

Week 2: The First Poetry Anthology of Japan

- Mon. 20 Jan. No Class: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 4) Wed. 22 Jan. Selected poems from the *Collection of Myriad Leaves (Man'yōshū, ca. 785)* (T, pp. 60-88)
- 5) Fri. 24 Jan. *Man'yōshū*, cont. (T, pp. 88-109)

Week 3: The First Imperial Anthology of Waka

↓ Heian Period: 794-1185

- 6) Mon. 27 Jan. Preface to the *Collection of Ancient and Modern Poems* (*Kokinshū*, ca. 905) (L)
- 7) Wed. 29 Jan. Selected poems from the *Kokinshū* (T, pp. 149-68)
- 8) Fri. 31 Jan. *Tales of Ise* (*Ise monogatari*, ca. 947) (T, pp. 184-203)

Week 4: Early-Heian Tales

- 9) Mon. 3 Feb. **Paper #1 (Weeks 1-3) due in class**
Keikai, *Record of Miraculous Events in Japan* (*Nihon Ryōiki*, ca. 822)
(T, pp. 117-126)
- 10) Wed. 5 Feb. *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter* (*Taketori monogatari*, ca. 909) (T, pp. 169-184)
- 11) Fri. 7 Feb. *Taketori*, cont.

Week 5: Heian Diary Literature

- 12) Mon. 10 Feb. Ki no Tsurayuki, *Toda Diary* (*Tosa nikki*, ca. 935) (T, pp. 204-213)
- 13) Wed. 12 Feb. Mother of Michitsuna, *Kagerō Diary* (*Kagerō nikki*, 974) (T, pp. 222-247)
- 14) Fri. 14 Feb. *Kagerō Diary*, cont.

Week 6: Heian Essay Literature

- Mon. 17 Feb. No Class: President's Day
- 15) Wed. 19 Feb. Sei Shōnagon, *The Pillow Book* (*Makura no sōshi*, ca. 1005) (T, pp. 247-64, 265-85)
- 16) Fri. 21 Feb. *Makura no sōshi*, cont.

Week 7: The World's First Novel?

- 17) Mon. 24 Feb. **Paper #2 (Weeks 4-6) due in class**
Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji* (*Genji monogatari*) (T, pp. 293-313)
- 18) Wed. 26 Feb. *Genji monogatari*, cont. (T, pp. 313-46)
- 19) Fri. 28 Feb. *Genji monogatari*, cont. (T, pp. 346-359)

Week 8: *Genji*, cont.

- 20) Mon. 3 Mar. *Genji monogatari*, cont. (T, pp. 359-385)
- 21) Wed. 5 Mar. *Murasaki Shikibu's Diary*, (*Murasaki shikibu nikki*, 1010.) (T, pp. 448-52.)
- 22) Fri. 7 Mar. Virginia Woolf (1882-1941), "The Tale of *Genji*" (a review originally published in *Vogue*, late July 1925 as "*The Tale of the Genji* by Lady Murasaki, translated from the Japanese by Arthur Waley." (L)

Week 9: Late-Heian Buddhist Tales

- 23) Mon. 10 Mar. **Paper #3 (Weeks 7-8) due in class**
- Collection of Tales of Times Now Past* (*Konjaku monogatari shū*, ca. 1120)
(T, pp. 529-542)
- 24) Wed. 12 Mar. *Konjaku monogatari shū*, cont. (T, pp. 542-560)
- 25) Fri. 14 Mar. **IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM**

↓Kamakura Period: 1183-1333

Week 10: The Aesthetics of the New *Kokinshū*

- 26) Mon. 17 Mar. Fujiwara no Shunzei, *Poetic Styles from the Past* (*Korai fūteishō*, 1197)
(T, pp. 587-592)
- 27) Wed. 19 Mar. *New Collection of Ancient and Modern Poems* (*Shinkokinshū*, ca. 1205)
(T, pp. 607-23)
- 28) Fri. 21 Mar. Kamo no Chōmei, *An Account of a Ten-Foot-Square Hut* (*Hōjōki*, 1212)
(T, pp. 623-35)

<Spring Break: Mon. 24 Mar. through Fri. 28 Mar. >

Week 11: Warrior Tales

- 29) Mon. 31 Mar. *The Tales of the Heike (Heike monogatari, mid-13th century)* (T, pp. 706-728)
- 30) Wed. 2 Apr. *Heike monogatari, cont.* (T, pp. 728-749)
- 31) Fri. 4 Apr. *Heike monogatari, cont.* (T, pp. 749-777)

Week 12: Late-Kamakura Essay Literature & Muromachi Tales

- 32) Mon. 7 Apr. **Paper #4 (Weeks 9-11) due in class**
Kenkō, Essays in Idleness (Tsurezuregusa, 1329-33)
(T, pp. 820-32, trans. Donald Keene, 1922-)
- 33) Wed. 9 Apr. *Tsurezuregusa, cont.* (T, pp. 833-43).
- “Lunch with the FT: Donald Keene”
(An interview, *Financial Times*, October 28, 2011.) (L)

↓ Muromachi Period: 1392-1573

- 34) Fri. 11 Apr. Muromachi tales (*otogi zōshi*)
“Lazy Tarō” (Monogusa Tarō) (T, pp. 1100-12)
“The Demon Shuten Dōji” (Shuten dōji) (T, pp. 1123-38)
“Chūjōhime” (Chūjōhime no honji) (T, pp. 1138-50)

Week 13: Nō Drama

- 35) Mon. 14 Apr “Lady Aoi” (“Aoi”) (T, pp. 925-36)
- 36) Wed. 16 Apr “Pining Wind,” (“Matsukaze,” attributed to Zeami) (T, pp. 952-68)
“Nonomiya” (“Shrine in the Fields,” attrib. to Konparu Zenchiku) (T, pp. 1004-16)
- 37) Fri. 18 Apr “Atsumori” (attributed to Zeami) (T, pp. 980-91)

Week 14: Linked Verse (*Renga*) and Haikai Poetry (*Haiku*)

- 38) Mon. 21 Apr. **Paper #5 (Weeks 12-13) due in class**
Three Poets at Minase, (*Minase sangin*, 1488) (T, pp. 1087-92)

↓**Edo Period: 1600-1867**

- 39) Wed. 23 Apr. Selected poems by Matsuo Bashō
“hokku” (E, pp. 178-87) and *Withering Gusts*, (*Kogarashi*, 1684) (E, pp. 194-200)
- 40) Fri. 25 Apr. Matsuo Bashō, *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, (*Oku no hoomochi*, 1694)
(E, pp. 209-32)

Week 15: Books of the Floating World (*ukiyo-zōshi*)

- 41) Mon. 28 Apr. Ihara Saikaku, *Life of a Sensuous Man*, (*Kōshoku ichidai otoko*, 1682)
(E, pp. 23-35)
- 42) Wed. 30 Apr. Ihara, Saikaku, *Kōshoku gonin onna* (*Five Sensuous Women*, 1686) (E, pp. 35-67)
- 43) Fri. 2 May. Saikaku, cont.

Week 16: Puppet Theater (*bunraku*)

- 44) Mon. 5 May. Chikamatsu Monzaemon, *The Love Suicides at Amijima* (*Shinjū ten no amijima*,
1721) (E, 142-175)
- 45) Wed. 7 May. Chikamatsu, cont.

Friday, May 9, 4 PM Paper #6 (Weeks 14-16, 4 pages) due (hardcopy to be submitted to the EALL main office, Moore 382)

Monday, May 12, 12-2 PM Final Examination