

Course title and code: PAAS 388 Modern Japanese Literature in Translation

Instructor: Timothy Iles

Email: timiles@uvic.ca

Phone: 721-6237



Course description:

Alienation, space aliens, arms that come to life, poetic beauty and the power of nature to create paths of integration and belonging—contemporary Japanese literature presents some of the most compelling, innovative, evocative, and engaging narratives the world has ever read. This course analyses the ways in which authors, using the art of language, create moving, sometimes disturbing, always powerful critiques of their historical moments and contexts, pointing towards paths of liberation, transformation, or resistance.

Proposed assignments:

Midterm Exam:	15%
Final Exam:	15%
Bibliography and Outline	20%
Midterm Essay:	20%
Term Essay:	30%

Proposed reading list:

Abe Kōbō: "Friends,"
Contemporary Japanese Literature, PL782 E1C6

Akutagawa Ryūnosuke: "The Shadow," "Two Letters" (unpublished translations)

Dazai Osamu: "The Courtesy Call," *Modern Japanese Stories: an anthology*, PL782 E8M67

Hoshi Shin'ichi: selections from *The Spiteful Planet and Other Stories*, PL852 O8H613

Ibuse Masuji: "The Carp," *The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories*, PL782 E8 O95

Kanai Mieko: "Rabbits," *Rabbits, Crabs, Etc.*, PL782 E8R3

Kawabata Yasunari: "One Arm," *The Showa Anthology, Volume 2*, PL782 E8S52

Kōno Taeko: "Bone Meat," *Contemporary Japanese Literature*, PL782 E1C6

Kurahashi Yumiko: "The House of the Black Cat," *The Woman with the Flying Head*, PL855 U64A26 1998, "The Extraterrestrial," *The Woman with the Flying Head*, PL855 U64A26 1998

Miyamoto Yuriko: "The Family Koiwai," *Stories by*

Contemporary Japanese Women Writers, PL 782 E8 S76

Mukoda Kuniko: "Manhattan," *Name of the Flower*, PL856 U65A26

Murakami Haruki: "On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl," *The Elephant Vanishes*, PL856 U673E44,

"The Elephant Vanishes," *The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories*, PL782 E8 O95, "The Year of Spaghetti" and "Man-Eating Cats," *Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman*, PL 856 U673 A23

Nakagami Kenji: "The Immortal" in *The Shōwa Anthology Modern Japanese Short Stories 2*, PL782 E8S52

Nakamoto Takako: "The Female Bell-Cricket," *To Live and To Write: Selections by Japanese Women Writers 1913-1938*, PL 726.6 T6

Oe Kenzaburō: "The Clever Rain Tree," *The Showa Anthology, Volume 2*, PL782 E8S52

Shiga Naoya: "At Kinosaki," *Modern Japanese Literature*, PL782 E1K43 1960

Tanizaki Jun'ichirō: "Tattoo," *Modern Japanese Stories: an anthology*, PL782 E8M67

Tsushima Yūko: "The Marsh," *Unmapped Territories*, PL782 E8U63

Yoshimoto Banana, "Dreaming of Kimchee," *The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories*, PL782 E8 O95