Objectives

This course will introduce approaches to the analysis of narratives and texts. Our first step will be to define these words to be inclusive and yet precise. From here, we will define the process of analysis and identify key components of narratives and texts which help us in that process, and help us arrive at a meaning. We will suggest ways in which meaning can grow from interpretation, while discovering how interpretation is dependent on the analytical skill of the person encountering the text/narrative. We will utilise a wide variety of narratives and texts, from photography to poetry to drama, from a variety of Asian countries—primarily China, Japan, Taiwan, North Korea, and Malaysia. Regular attendance in class is mandatory and completion of all required readings (which will be assigned in class) before they are discussed is politely but strongly recommended.

In accordance with the policies of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, students who miss more than 10% of classes (in this case, three classes) will not be permitted to write the final exam.

Many of the issues we will discuss have the potential to be controversial. I am committed to creating an equitable, inclusive, and safe educational space. I will ask students making intolerant, abusive, or disruptive comments, or behaving inattentively, to leave the classroom.

Tentative Schedule
(Subject to Change as Necessary)

Friday, January 6: Introduction—who are we and what will we do?
  • Overview of the course, assignments, goals.

Part One: The Ground

Tuesday, January 10: What is a ‘Text’, and why should we analyse it?
  • the relationship between text, analysis, interpretation, and meaning
  Readings:
  • Screening of two Japanese animated films from the 1930s
  • Texts and Contexts: “An Introduction, Theoretically,” “Critical Worlds”

Friday, January 13: Building Blocks
• Language and its Variants
• the roots of ‘textuality’

**Readings:**
• *Cambridge Companion to Narrative:* “Introduction,” “Toward a Definition of Narrative”
• Ki no Tsurayuki: *Kana Preface to Kokinwakashû*
• Selected poems from *Kokinshû*
• Bashô: *Oku no hosomichi*

**EXERCISE ONE ASSIGNED**

**Tuesday, January 17: Parts and Pieces**
• Backgrounds, Settings
• time, space, and everything else

**Readings:**
• Hirakawa Sukehiro: “In Defense of the ‘Spirit’ of the Japanese Language”
• *Elements of Literature:* “The Elements of Fiction”
• Ding Ling: “Affair in East Village”

**Friday, January 20: Plots, People and Personalities**
• Process, Progress, Persuasion
• Characters, real or better than real: it doesn’t really matter

**Readings:**
• Barthes, Roland: “Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Texts”
• Peace Museum advertisement, Hello Kitty and War

**Part Two: The Process**

**Tuesday, January 24: Taking Things Apart, A Challenge**
• When faced with a puzzle, what’s first?

**Readings:**
• Akutagawa Ryûnosuke: “The Swamp,” “Woman”
• **Exercise 1 is Due**

**Friday, January 27: History and Context**
• Situating the Text in its Time

**Readings:**
• *The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature:* “Chapter 33: Critical Strategies for Reading,” “Chapter 34: Reading and Writing”
• Lu Xun: “Diary of a Madman”

**Tuesday, January 31: Image, Music: Text**
• The Possibilities in Cinema

**Readings:**
• Kurosawa Akira: *Ikiru* excerpt

**Friday, February 3: Image, Music: 2**
• Premodern cinema?

**Readings:**
• Hiroshige’s Imagination of America, Tokyo in 1881
• **Midterm Essay Topics Assigned**

**Tuesday, February 7: Image, Music 3**
• Drama as text

**Readings:**
• Kyôgen play, “Busu” (read the text first; we will see a 30-minute video, in class)
Friday, February 10: Televesion is a Battlefield

Readings:
- TV Commercials from Japan, Malaysia, etc

Tuesday, February 14: Reading Break

Friday, February 17: Reading break

Tuesday, February 21: **Midterm Exam, in class**

Friday, February 24: Generation: Writing About Texts
- Analysis, Interpretation, Rhetoric: preparation for the midterm essay

Readings:
- *Norton Introduction to Literature*: “Writing About Literature”

*Part Three: Manipulations and Meanings*

Tuesday, February 28: Propaganda or Art?
- Is there ever a difference?

Readings:
- Chinese Propaganda Posters
- Midterm essay assignment due.

Friday, March 2: Propaganda, Part 2

Readings:
- North Korean News
- EXERCISE TWO ASSIGNED

Tuesday, March 6: Religious Propaganda?

Readings:
- The Hôjôki

Friday, March 9: Nationalism and Contemporary Propaganda

Readings:
- Fukasaku Kinji, *Virus*, excerpt
- Exercise 2 is Due

Tuesday, March 13: Nationalism and Analysis

Readings:

Friday, March 16: Nationalism and Analysis, 2
- Discussion of *Ip Man*

Tuesday, March 20: Popular fiction

Readings:
- Post-Mao short stories

Friday, March 23: Discussion: what is ‘Textual Analysis’ in total?

Readings:
- Abe Kôbô, “Enterprise”

Tuesday, March 27: **Final Exam**
- Term Essays are Due
Friday, March 30: **No class** (I'll be busy marking!)

Tuesday, April 3 Last Day of Class

- **exams and term papers returned**

**Required Texts**

Refer to the attached page for a list of materials for reading and analysis. Material is on reserve in McPherson Library.

**Grading**

 Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than 10% of classes may not be permitted to write the final exam.

- Midterm Exam: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%
- Exercises (2x10%) 20%
- Midterm Essay: 20%
- Term Essay: 30%

**Mark Ranges**

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Students who do not complete all course assignments may receive an N. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all course requirements are complete before their due dates. **Late assignments will not be accepted.**
The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University’s policies on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 33-34 of the current University Calendar (2011/12). All students are advised to read this section.

Practices that are not acceptable include:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write the student’s assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else’s work as the student’s own;
- Downloading essays or articles from the Internet, or copying passages from books or journals, and presenting them as the student’s own work;
- Citing only a portion of a quotation, and presenting the remainder as the student’s own work;
- Copying from another student or sharing information in examinations or tests;
- Bringing notes or other materials into an examination or test, except as authorised by the examiner or instructor.

In addition, the following kinds of behaviour, unless specifically authorised by the instructor, are unacceptable in an examination: talking or communicating by computer or other electronic device with another student; looking at the work of other students while writing an exam; consulting books, electronic materials or other sources of information.

In every course, the instructor may choose to conduct an additional oral examination, in the presence of another faculty member from the Department, so as to ascertain the level of a student’s knowledge or understanding of the course material.

Departmental Policy Regarding Penalties for Plagiarism and Cheating

The possible penalties for plagiarism and cheating are outlined in the Calendar. An instructor will notify the Chair of the Department of cases of a suspected violation and the Chair will contact the student to arrange an interview with the student and instructor to review the case. If it is determined that a violation of University policy has occurred, the Chair will notify the Director of Academic Advising of the case and a letter of reprimand will be issued to the student. Any repeat offenses will be dealt with directly by the Dean. In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the minimum penalty for a first offence will be a grade of zero for the assignment, examination or test. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense and the weight of the assignment, the Chair may assign a grade of F (0 GPA) for the course. Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to be cheating. Records of any violation will be held by the Director of Academic Advising on behalf of the Dean of Humanities. Such records will be destroyed four years after a student graduates. A repeat offence may result in the additional penalty of Disciplinary Probation being placed on the student’s Official Transcript by the Dean; this notation is removed upon graduation.

If you have any doubts about the University’s policies, or want to know if a practice is acceptable or not, you should raise your concerns with your course instructor.
Critical:

Ki no Tsurayuki: *Kana* Preface to *Kokinwakashû*

*Cambridge Companion to Narrative*: “Introduction,” “Toward a Definition of Narrative”


*Elements of Literature*: “The Elements of Fiction”

Barthes, Roland: “Introduction to the Structural Analysis of Texts”

*The Compact Bedford Introduction to Literature*: “Chapter 33: Critical Strategies for Reading,” “Chapter 34: Reading and Writing”

*Norton Introduction to Literature*: “Writing About Literature”

Kokinwakashû, selected poems

Bashô, *Oku no hosomichi*

Ding, Ling: “Affair in East Village”

Peace Museum advertisement, Hello Kitty images

Akutagawa, Ryûnosuke: “The Swamp,” “Woman”

Lu, Xun: “Diary of a Madman”

Kurosawa, Akira: *Ikiru*, excerpt

Hiroshige, Ukiyo-e of Tokyo, 1881

*Busu*, kyôgen play

TV Commercials from Malaysia, Japan, China

Chinese propaganda posters

North Korean News Propaganda

Kamo no Chômei: “The Hôjôki”

Fukasaku, Kinji: *Virus*, excerpt


Post-Mao short Fiction

Abe, Kôbô: “Enterprise”

For Analysis:

*Kokinwakashû*, selected poems

Bashô, *Oku no hosomichi*

Ding, Ling: “Affair in East Village”

Peace Museum advertisement, Hello Kitty images

Akutagawa, Ryûnosuke: “The Swamp,” “Woman”

Lu, Xun: “Diary of a Madman”

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