Objectives

This course will explore developments and trends in modern Japanese literature, looking at both stylistic and thematic developments from the late Meiji-early Taisho eras to the present day. We will read a variety of genres of narrative, by both female and male writers. The class will be primarily a seminar-styled opportunity to discuss form, content, and specific features as they reflect, comment on, and critique social issues in an open, analytical atmosphere—as such, complete reading of the texts is required by all students prior to the date assigned for each work.

Main themes to be covered: nature and its relation to society; individual alienation/integration; gender tensions; the past and its functions in the present; etc.

In accordance with the policies of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, students who miss more than 10% of classes (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. Intolerant or abusive comments or behaviour will be dealt with appropriately.

Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, January 6: Introduction—who are we and what will we do?
- Overview of the course, assignments, goals.
- A brief overview of key periods in modern Japanese literature.
- How to Approach Literature/Ways of Reading a Text
- Key Terms in the Study of Literature

Wednesday, January 13: The First-person point of view and Nature in Modern Japanese Literature
- Ibuse Masuji: “The Carp.”
- Shiga Naoya: “At Kinosaki”
- Tsushima Yuko: “The Marsh”
Wednesday, January 20: Fantasy and Fear
• Tanizaki Jun’ichirô: “Tattoo”
• Kurahashi Yumiko: “The House of the Black Cat”

Wednesday, January 27: The Pressures of Conformity
• Dazai Osamu: “The Courtesy Call”
• Abe Kôbô: “Friends”

Wednesday, February 3: Jealous Desire
• Akutagawa Ryûnosuke: “The Shadow,” “Two Letters”
• Kawabata Yasunari: “One Arm”
• Nakagami Kenji: “The Immortal”

Wednesday, February 10: FIRST ASSIGNMENT IS DUE and MIDTERM EXAM
• In-class, two hours
• Essay-styled answers, three from a choice of six questions

Wednesday, February 17: READING BREAK—no class

Wednesday, February 24: The Pressure of Love
• Nakamoto Takako: “The Female Bell-Cricket”
• Kôno Taeko: “Bone Meat”
• Mukoda Kuniko: “Manhattan”

Wednesday, March 3: Family Violence, Family Love
• Kanai Mieko: “Rabbits”
• Kurahashi Yumiko: “The Extraterrestrial”

Wednesday, March 10: Disturbance/Fantasy/SF
• Oe Kenzaburô: “The Clever Rain Tree”
• Selections by Hoshi Shin’ichi
• Essay outlines and Bibliography Assignment Due

Wednesday, March 17: Commercialism/Commitment
• Miyamoto Yuriko: “The Family Koiwai”
• Yoshimoto Banana: “Dreaming of Kimchi”

Wednesday, March 24: Post-realism/Postmodernism
• Murakami Haruki: “On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl,” “The Elephant Vanishes,” “The Year of Spaghetti,” “Man-Eating Cats”
• TERM PAPERS ARE DUE

Wednesday, March 31: FINAL EXAM
• In-class, two hours
• Essay-styled answers, three from a choice of six questions

Wednesday, April 7: Last day, all materials returned

Required Texts

Readings are on reserve in McPherson Library, listed by title and under this course number, PAAS 388.
Grading

Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than 10% of classes (2 classes) will not be permitted to write the final exam.

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

Mark Ranges

A+: 90% —>
A: 86-90%
A-: 80-85%
B+: 77-79%
B: 74-76%
B-: 70-73%
C+: 66-69%
C: 60-65%
D: 55-59%
F: Below 54%

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.
Department of Pacific and Asian Studies

Plagiarism and Cheating

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies upholds and enforces the University's policies on plagiarism and cheating. These policies are described on pp. 22-23 of the current University Calendar. All students are advised to read this section.

Practices that are not acceptable include:

- Persuading or paying someone else to write your assignments, or otherwise presenting someone else's work as your own;
- Downloading essays or articles from the Internet, or copying passages from books or journals, and presenting them as your 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. All cases of plagiarism will automatically be referred to the Chair of the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies. In the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, the penalty for a first offence will be an automatic F grade (0%) for the assignment, examination or test, with a note from the Instructor going on file with the Department. Students will not be permitted to rewrite an assignment, examination or test on which they have been found to be cheating. Departmental records of cheating and plagiarism will be destroyed once a student has completed a degree program without any further offence. Depending upon the seriousness of the offense and the weight of the assignment, the Chair may assign an automatic F grade (0 GPA) for the course.

In the case of a second offence in the same course, the student will automatically receive an F grade (0 GPA) for the course, and the department will refer the matter to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts. In cases where the student is on record for having plagiarised or cheated in another course, the student will receive an automatic F grade (0 GPA) for the course, regardless of whether this is a first or second offense for that course, and the matter will be forwarded to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts for further disciplinary action.

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.
Abe Kôbô: “Friends,” *Contemporary Japanese Literature*, PL782 E1C6

Akutagawa Ryûnosuke: “The Shadow,” “Two Letters” (unpublished translations)


Hoshi Shin’ichi: selections from *The Spiteful Planet and Other Stories*, PL 782 O8 H613


Kanai Mieko: “Rabbits,” *Rabbits, Crabs, Etc.*, PL782 E8R3

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


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


Nakagami Kenji: “The Immortal” in *The Shôwa Anthology Modern Japanese Short Stories 2*, PL782 E8S52


Tsushima Yuko: “The Marsh,” *Unmapped Territories*, PL782 E8U63

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