

AS/JA125 Japanese Literature & Society Fall 2013 (CRN: 90253)

M W 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Pettengill 151

Instructor: Hisaaki Wake (hwake@bates.edu)

Office: Roger Williams 211 Phone: x5938

Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. or by appointment

This course examines major trends in Japanese literature and society from its beginnings to the modern period. Students consider well-known stories, plays, and novels from the classical, medieval, early modern, and modern periods, placing each text within its unique socio-historical contexts. All readings are in English.

The goals of this course are to:

1. Familiarize yourself with key literary works from different periods in Japanese history. In addition to literary and critical readings, we will draw upon images and audiovisual materials to understand the specific contexts in which literary works were authored.
2. Consider how literary works have been interpreted, and reinterpreted, over time. What significance do they hold for us as modern English-language readers? What values or meanings might they have had for contemporary audiences?
3. Formulate your own interpretations of primary texts based on our class discussions and individual research, and effectively present them in writing. This course fulfills the W2 requirement for those taking it in their sophomore or junior years.

Primary Texts Available at the Bates Store:

You are required to bring copies of these key primary texts to class on the days where we discuss them. It is NOT acceptable to use an alternative translation as your primary text – e.g. Arthur Waley's translation of *The Tale of Genji* rather than Royall Tyler's, or free Internet translations of *Botchan* (that use archaic language), rather than the recent translation by Joel Cohn. However, feel free to consult other translations *in addition to* the translations used in class.

- 1) Morris, Ivan. *The World of the Shining Prince*. New York: Kodansha Globe, 1994.
- 2) Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji* (abridged). Trans. Royall Tyler. New York, NY: Penguin, 2006.
- 3) Natsume Sōseki. *Botchan*. Trans. Joel Cohn. New York, NY: Penguin, 2013.
- 4) Natsume Sōseki. *Kokoro*. Trans. Edwin McClellan. Mineola, NY: Dover, 1957.

Secondary Materials on Reserve:

Totman, Conrad. *A History of Japan*. Second Edition. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
(Sections for required reading are also available on Lyceum.)

VHS *Tale of Genji* (Anime)

VHS *Bunraku*

DVD *Botchan, School Days*

DVD *Rashōmon*

*DVD *Noh Dōjōji* is on order, and available via ILL from Bowdoin and Colby Libraries until it arrives in Ladd.

Course Requirements:

Attendance, Preparation, Participation	15%
Three Writing Assignments*	
1) Précis (500 words)	5%
2) Genji paper (5-6 pages)	25%
3) Research/Analysis paper (5-6 pages)	30%
Final Exam	25%

*All assignments must be turned in at the date and time specified. You will lose one half of a grade point per day for lateness.

**For each written assignment, a detailed instruction sheet will be provided and discussed in class.

Academic Honesty:

Acknowledge your sources in your writings whenever you are borrowing ideas, words, and expressions from other people's works. You must put all borrowed languages in quotation marks and indicate its source. Remember that citations are also necessary when summarizing someone else's ideas in your own words.

Schedule of Classes:

("D" denotes sessions focusing on discussion of texts; "W" denotes part of sessions devoted to watching a DVD or a video.)

Week 0 (Sept. 4): Introduction (1): Modern Reinterpretations of Medieval Tales

Wed. Introduction to this course. W. Kurosawa's *Rashōmon* (1)

Week 1 (Sept. 9): Introduction (2): Modern Reinterpretations, continued; The Ancient Period

Mon. D. Readings: Excerpts from *Tales of Things Now Past*; Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, "In a Grove" & "Rashōmon" (Lyceum) W. Kurosawa's *Rashōmon* (2)

Wed. Introduction to Japanese mythology **D.** Readings: Excerpts from *Records of Ancient Matters* (Kojiki) and *Chronicles of Japan* (Nihongi) in *Sources of Japanese Tradition Vol. 1: From Earliest Times to 1600*, 13-31. (Lyceum)

Week 2 (Sept. 16): The Heian Period: The Aristocratic Culture of Sensibility (1)

Mon. Introduction to the Classical (Heian) Period. **D.** Readings: Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*, “The Paulownia Pavilion,” 4-17; *The World of the Shining Prince*, “The Setting,” 15-40 & “Politics and Society,” 41-88. (Lyceum)

Wed. **D.** Readings: Fukumori, Naomi, “Sei Shōnagon's *Makura no sōshi*: A Re-visionary History,” 1-44; Sei Shōnagon, *Pillow Book* (Excerpts) (Lyceum) **W.** Sugii Gisaburō, *The Tale of Genji* (Excerpts) (1)

First Written Assignment (500-word Précis on Fukumori’s article on *The Pillow Book*) due at 11:59 p.m., Sept. 18.

Week 3 (Sept. 23): The Heian Period: The Aristocratic Culture of Sensibility (2)

Mon. **D.** Readings: *World of the Shining Prince*, “The Women of Heian and their Relations with Men,” 199-250; Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*, “The Broom Tree,” 18-53. **W.** Sugii Gisaburō, *The Tale of Genji* (Excerpts) (2)

Wed. **D.** Readings: *World of the Shining Prince*, “The Cult of Beauty,” 170-198; Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*, “The Twilight Beauty,” 54-86, & “Young Murasaki,” 87-127.

Week 4 (Sept. 30): The Heian Period: The Aristocratic Culture of Sensibility (3)

Mon. **D.** Readings: Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*, “Beneath the Autumn Leaves,” 128-151, & “Under the Cherry Blossoms,” 152-161. **W.** Sugii Gisaburō, *The Tale of Genji* (Excerpts) (3)

Wed. **D.** Readings: *World of the Shining Prince*, “Murasaki Shikibu,” 251-264; Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*, “Heart to Heart,” 162-185, & “The Green Branch,” 186-124.

Week 5 (Oct. 7): Genji Conclusion; The Ascendancy of the Warrior Class

Mon. **D.** Readings: *World of the Shining Prince*, “Religions,” 89-122 & “Superstitions,” 123-140; Murasaki Shikibu, *The Tale of Genji*, “Akashi,” 253-282, “The Pilgrimage to Sumiyoshi,” 283-304, & “The Picture Contest,” 305-319.

Guest visit: Lauren Vidal, Ph.D., Writing Specialist, Bates College

Thesis statement of Genji paper due in class, Oct. 7.

Wed. Introduction to the Medieval Period. Readings: **D.** Conrad Totman, “Medieval Higher Culture (1250-1550)” in *A History of Japan, 175-202*; “The Death of Atsumori” from *The Tales of the Heike* (Trans. Burton Watson) & The Noh “Atsumori” (Trans. Karen Brazell) (Lyceum)

Week 6 (Oct. 14): The Medieval Noh Drama

Mon. **D.** Readings: Royall Tyler, “General Introduction” to *Japanese Nō Drama*, 1-21; Noh “Dōjōji” (Trans. Donald Keene) in *Traditional Japanese Theatre*, 193-206. **W.** Noh “Dōjōji” (DVD)

Guest visit: Brooke O’Harra, Assistant Professor in Theater, Bates College

Genji paper draft due at 11:59 p.m., Monday, Oct. 14.

Fall Recess

Week 7 (Oct. 21): The Edo Period: The Culture of the Townspeople (1)

Mon. Introduction to the Early Modern (Edo) Period. **D.** Readings: Ihara Saikaku, *Life of a Sensuous Man* (Excerpts), in *Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology 1600-1900*, 45-57; Howard Hibbett, *The Floating World in Japanese Fiction*, 3-49. (Lyceum)

Wed. **D.** Readings: Saikaku, *Five Sensuous Women* (Excerpts), 60-82; *Life of a Sensuous Woman* (Excerpts), 82-120; *Great Mirror of Male Love* (Excerpts), 120-127; *Tales of Samurai Duty* (Excerpts), 127-131; Timon Screech, “Ch. 2, Time and Place in Edo Erotic Images” in *Sex and the Floating World: Erotic Images in Japan: 1700-1820*. (Lyceum)

Week 8 (Oct. 28): The Edo Period: The Culture of the Townspeople (2)

Mon. **D.** Readings: Saikaku, *Japan’s Eternal Storehouse* (Excerpts), 131-150; *Worldly Mental Calculations* (Excerpts), 150-163; Ohno, “The Edo Period: Pre-conditions for Industrialization” in *Economic Development of Japan*, 21-38. (Lyceum)

Wed. **D.** Readings: Chikamatsu Monzaemon, “The Love Suicides at Sonezaki” in *Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology 1600-1900*, 233-259 (including an introduction to Chikamatsu). (Lyceum) **W.** Bunraku puppet performance of “The Love Suicides at Sonezaki.”

Genji paper due at 11:59 p.m., Oct 31.

Week 9 (Nov. 4): The Meiji Period: the Modern Nation-State and the Individual Self (1)

Mon. Introduction to the Meiji Period. **D.** Readings: Futabatei Shimei, *Ukigumo*, Pt. I-II. 197-318. (Lyceum)

Wed. **D.** Readings: Yanabu Akira, “Shakai – the translation of a people who had no society” in *Translation in Modern Japan*, 51-60; Futabatei, *Ukigumo*, Pt. III, 321-356. (Lyceum)

Week 10 (Nov. 11): The Meiji Period: the Modern Nation-State and the Individual Self (2)

Mon. Introduction to Natsume Sōseki. **D.** Readings: Sōseki, *Botchan* (Trans. J. Cohn), Ch. I-VI; Sekiguchi & Taniguchi, *The Times of Botchan* (Excerpts). (Lyceum)

Wed. **D.** Readings: Sōseki, *Botchan*, Ch. VII-XI. **W.** Satō Shōji, *Botchan: Student Days* (Excerpts). (Lyceum)

Proposal for Research/Analysis Paper due at 11:59 p.m., Nov. 7.

Week 11 (Nov. 18): The Meiji Period: the Modern Nation-State and the Individual Self (3)

Mon. **D.** Readings: Sōseki, *Kokoro* (Trans. Edwin McClellan), 1-80.

Wed. **D.** Readings: Sōseki, *Kokoro*, 81-124.

Thanksgiving Break

Week 12 (Dec. 2): Conclusion

Mon. **D.** Readings: Sōseki, *Kokoro*, 125-248.

Wed. **D.** Jay Rubin, “Sōseki on Individualism,” 21-48; Atsuko Sakaki, “The Debates on ‘Kokoro’: A Cornerstone” in *Recontextualizing Texts: Narrative Performance in Modern Japanese Fiction*, 29-53. (Lyceum) In-class review for final.

Final Exam: 1:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m., Tuesday, December 10 at PGILL 151

Research/Analysis Paper due: 12:59 p.m., Saturday, December 14