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

Instructor: Saeko Shibayama  
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Office Hours: Wed. 3:00-4:00 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.  

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  


**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)


**Week 3: The First Imperial Anthology of Waka**

↓*Nara Period: 710-784*

↓*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)


**Week 5: Heian Diary Literature**

12) Mon. 10 Feb.   *Ki no Tsurayuki, Toda Diary (Tosa nikki, ca. 935)* (T, pp. 204-213)


**Week 6: Heian Essay Literature**

Mon. 17 Feb.    No Class: President’s Day


**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)


Week 8: *Genji, cont.*
20) Mon. 3 Mar.  *Genji monogatari, cont.* (T, pp. 359-385)


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)


25) Fri. 14 Mar.  **IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM**

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**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)

   (T, pp. 607-23)

   (T, pp. 623-35)

<Spring Break: Mon. 24 Mar. through Fri. 28 Mar. >
Week 11: Warrior Tales
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-)
    “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)
    “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)

| Edible 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*)

(E, pp. 23-35)


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