Japanese 407E, Readings in Modern Japanese Literature, Spring 2015

This course is designed to develop reading skills in modern Japanese and to introduce students to the linguistic and formal features of modern Japanese literature, particularly fiction.

TR, 10:30-11:45
Moore 423

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, Tuesdays 3:00-4:00, and by appointment

Learning Outcomes
● Students will make progress in analyzing the structure and meaning of written Japanese sentences
● Students will learn to identify and examine key formal features of short narratives.
● Students will gain experience in recognizing and evaluating the thematic content of narratives.
● Students will gain proficiency in using appropriate reference sources, principally those that are web-based.

Class Procedure
This class will be conducted in both Japanese and English. Students are responsible for preparing the portions of the text to be covered in each session. Comprehension questions will be asked in Japanese, but we will use English to analyze and translate more difficult sentences as well as to discuss thematic and formal elements.

Because we will be using web sources, laptops and tablets are allowed in class. Students engaging in irrelevant use of computers and phones, however, will be asked to leave for the session.

Requirements
Class attendance, preparation, and performance 30%
(More than 4 unexcused absences will result in a lowered global grade)
Short Written Assignments 20%
Midterm Examination 20%
Final Exam (Thursday, May 14, 9:45-11:45) 30%

Reading List
The reading list may be modified in accordance with student interests and abilities. Readings will either be on Aozora bunko, or on Laulima.

Natsume Sōseki, selections from Garasudo no uchi (1915)
Kawabata Yasunari, selections from Tanagokoro no shōsetsu
Yoshimoto Banana, “Midori no yubi” (2002)