JPN 461: Introduction to Classical Japanese

PREREQUISITE: JPN 407 or instructor’s consent
MEETINGS: M W F 10:30–11:20 Moore 351
INSTRUCTOR: A. Thornhill OFFICE: Moore 360 E-MAIL: thornhil@hawaii.edu
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2:00–3:30, or by appointment PHONE: 956–2056

TEXT: There is no textbook for the course, but all students should have access to Helen McCullough’s Bungo Manual, copies of which are on sale at the bookstore. Also necessary is a 古語辞典; copies of the highly-recommended Iwanami version are available. Assorted hand-outs, exercises, and reading selections will be provided by the instructor.

CLASS PROCEDURE: In the early weeks of the semester, the fundamentals of classical Japanese grammar will be studied. The instructor will illustrate the points covered with quotations from original texts, and students will be asked to complete written homework. There will be several short quizzes during this period. Later on, the focus will shift to careful reading of selected texts. Readings will include excerpts from Taketori monogatari and Ise monogatari, and possibly other literary works. The assigned readings are to be read aloud and translated into English. The instructor will provide background information for each new selection. Students may be asked to present brief class reports on topics that arise in the readings.

EXAMS: midterm: mid-October final: December 19, 9:45–11:45

WRITTEN TRANSLATION: At the conclusion of the course, each student will be required to produce a polished translation from a classical text, 3–4 typewritten pages in length. A suggested text will be provided, but students may choose their own in consultation with the instructor.

GRADING CRITERIA:
class attendance and performance 30%
quizzes 10%
midterm 15%
final 35%
written translation 10%

Students who successfully complete this course should be able to:

1. Identify and analyze verb suffixes and other grammatical features of classical Japanese.
2. Read primary premodern literary texts with appropriate academic tools.
3. Read annotations in standard literary editions, and use standard dictionaries and other reference works.