In the Meiji period, the demolition of the former status system, the formation of a modern nation-state, and the growth of capitalism meant that social hierarchy was constantly in flux. So were the terms and discourses used to describe the social order. This seminar examines how the discourses of status and class affect the definition of what is "literary" and how fiction represents social hierarchy in the period. We will keep in view how the discourses of gender intersect with those of status and class.

Requirements:

Literary texts will generally be made available in both Japanese and English. There are additional required secondary readings in English. Students are required to attend class prepared to participate in discussion. Each student will be asked to lead off discussion at least twice during the term. A term paper of approximately 15 pages is required.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will become acquainted with a number of texts involved in the discourse of status and class in the Meiji period.
2. Students will be exposed to theoretical and critical discussions on status and class, as well as the relationship of these concepts to gender.
3. Students will produce a critical paper showing an understanding of Meiji literary history.

Readings:

**August 25** Introduction

**September 1** Labor Day

**September 8** Status and Class: Key Concepts
Gary Day, “Introduction,” from *Class*, pp. 1-18
Max Weber, “Class, Status, and Party”
David Howell, *Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-Century Japan*, pp. 20-78
Kunikida Doppo, “Gen oji” (Old Gen, 1897) AOZORA

**September 15** Kubota Hikosaku, *Torioi Omatsu kaijō shinwa* (no translation available, 1877-78)
LAULIMA
Christine Marran, *Poison Woman: Figuring Female Transgression in Modern Japanese Culture*, pp. xiii-64
Daniel Botsman, ‘Freedom without Slavery? ‘Coolies,’ Prostitutes, and Outcastes in Meiji Japan’s ‘Emancipation Moment’
September 22  Tsubouchi Shōyō, *Shōsetsu shinzui*, (The Essence of the Novel, 1885-86), “Introduction” and “Part One  (Chapters 1-5)” LAULIMA
In English, read electronic edition
http://archive.nyu.edu/html/2451/14945/shoyo.htm
Andrew Milner, *Literature, Culture, and Society*, pp. 1-26
Atsuko Ueda, *Concealment of Politics, Politics of Concealment: The Production of “Literature” in Meiji Japan*, pp. 1-89

September 29  Douglas Howland, “Samurai Status, Class, and Bureaucracy: a Historiographical Essay”
Sharon Nolte and Sally Hastings, “The Meiji State’s Policy Toward Women, 1890-1910”

October 6  Futabatei Shimei, *Ukigumo* (1887-91) AOZORA

October 13  Higuchi Ichiyō, *Takekurabe* (Child’s Play, 1895-96) AOZORA

October 20  Kunikida Doppo, “Wasure’enu hitobito” (Unforgettable People, 1898), “Take no kido” (The Bamboo Gate, 1908) AOZORA

October 27  Ozaki Kōyō, *Konjiki yasha* (The Golden Demon, 1897-1902), Part 1, AOZORA
Peter Brooks, *The Melodramatic Imagination*, pp. 1-23
Laura Mulvey, ”Notes on Sirk and Melodrama.”
Stuart Hall, ”Notes on Deconstructing the Popular"

November 3  Mori Ōgai, *Gan* (The Wild Goose, 1909) AOZORA
Stephen Snyder, ”Ōgai and the Problem of Fiction: Gan and it Antecedents"

November 10  Pitrim Sorokin, *Social and Cultural Mobility*, pp. 133-181

November 17  Natsume Sōseki, *Mon* (The Gate, 1910) AOZORA

November 24  David Howell, *Geographies of Identity in Nineteenth-Century Japan*, pp. 79-109

December 1  Shimazaki Tōson, *Hakai* (Broken Commandment, 1906) AOZORA
Michael Bourdaghhs, *The Dawn that Never Comes*, pp. 47-76

December 8  Presentation of paper proposals

Papers due: December 17, 5 p.m.

The schedule above may change. This is especially true with supplementary readings. Please check with me if you miss a class.