

HRS 174: Japanese Culture and Literature

Fall 2008; Wednesday 6:00-8:50; Kadema Hall room 145

General Information

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

Office: Tahoe 3088

Office Hours: MW: 9:00 - 11:00

And by appointment!

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Catalog Description

HRS 174. Modern Japanese Literature & Culture. The study of representative Japanese literature of the late Tokugawa period and of modern Japan through English translations.

Course Objectives

This course is designed to be a survey of modern Japanese culture and literature. We will be reading six works in translation as well as viewing seven feature films that represent a broad cross-section of some of the finest works produced in Japan during the twentieth century. The aim of this course is not only to introduce students to Japanese literature and cinema but also to use these mediums as a window into Japanese culture and sensibilities. Much of the class will revolve around in-class discussions of the works read and viewed. These discussions will be supplemented by lectures on Japanese culture. Through a combination of lectures, readings, and films each student will gain a fundamental understanding of modern Japanese culture. Moreover, the assignments are designed to encourage analytical thinking and intellectual growth.

Required Texts

Natsume Soseki. *Kokoro*.

Abe Kobo. *The Woman in the Dunes*.

Yoshimoto Banana. *Kitchen*.

Tanizaki Junichiro. *The Makioka Sisters*.

Murakami Haruki. *After Dark*.

Kirino Natsuo. *Out*.

Requirements and Grading Criteria

There will be six film reflection papers, six book quizzes, and one take-home essay final exam that will be weighed in the following manner:

Film Reflection Papers (6 x 20)	120	(35%)
Book Quizzes (6 x 20)	120	(35%)
Final Exam	100	(30%)
Total	340	

Film Reflection Papers

We will be watching 7 films over the course of the semester. You are to write a reflection paper on 6 of them. Which films you choose to write on are up to you. Take note, however, that I will not accept any late reflection papers. Reflection papers should be 400-600 words in length. (About two pages in length). These papers must address the assigned question for each film. Do not summarize the film, but rather reflect on what the film says about the particular prompt for each question. The prompts are listed below in the Course Outline and schedule.

A reflection paper for each film is due at the beginning of the following weeks class. You must hand in a hard copy of the paper as well as an electronic version through WebCT. **YOU MUST SUBMIT HARD AND ELECTRONIC VERSIONS!**

Book Quizzes

There will be 6 book quizzes worth twenty points each. Each quiz will be given at the beginning of class on the date that we discuss the book, thus it is imperative that you show up on time each week. The quizzes are designed to see how well you have read the book. If you read the book, then you should do well on the quiz. We will discuss the book following the quiz. The quizzes will all be multiple choice. You will need a Scantron 882 for each quiz.

If upon completion of the quiz you leave class early without a valid reason, you will receive a zero on the quiz.

If you miss a book quiz, or show up too late to take it, you must write at least a 750 word essay on a topic of my choosing. The paper will be due one week following the quiz date. Consequently, you must get the question from me as soon after you missed the quiz as possible. Failure to hand in the make up essay within one week will result in you receiving a zero on the quiz.

Final Exam

The Final Exam will be a take home essay exam that will be due at the time of our regularly scheduled final. The paper will ask you to compare and contrast several of the works that we will be reading and viewing over the course of the semester. The paper will need to be between 1000-1500 words in length. The specific question that you are to address in the final exam will be handed out on the last day of class. **YOU MUST SUBMIT HARD AND ELECTRONIC VERSIONS!**

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. (How else can you learn?) Students should notify the instructor in the event of extended absence. Withdrawals will be permitted only up to the scheduled deadline.

No students may leave the classroom before the class hour ends unless I am informed before class of an unavoidable appointment.

All cellular telephones must be turned off or set on Silent Mode (what they call “Manner Mode” in Japanese). A disruption of class caused by your phone ringing will be held against you.

Class Participation, pertinent to the topic under discussion, is encouraged. Everyone is expected to be prepared and to participate. Active participation may be used to determine the final grade in borderline cases.

Cheating or Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in failure of the course and possible referral for academic discipline. I expect your film reflection papers to be your own work. If it is not, beware!

“The word plagiarism derives from Latin roots: *plagiarius*, an abductor, and *plagiare*, to steal. The expropriation of another author’s text, and the presentation of it as one’s own, constitutes plagiarism” (*Perspectives*, March 2002).

Plagiarizing, trying to pass someone else’s work off as your own, is a serious violation of the CSUS honor code. Cutting and pasting something from the internet, for example, is a flagrant example of plagiarism. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a zero on the assignment and the matter may be turned over to the CSUS authorities for possible disciplinary action.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Week 1	Sept. 3	Introduction
Week 2	Sept. 10	Mizoguchi Kenji's <i>Story of the Last Chrysanthemum</i> Prompt: What does this film reveal about the Iemoto system?
Week 3	Sept. 17	Natsume Soseki's <i>Kokoro</i>
Week 4	Sept. 24	Ozu Yasujiro's <i>Early Summer</i> Prompt: What does this film reveal about family in Japan?
Week 5	Oct. 1	Studio Ghibili's <i>Grave of Fireflies</i> Prompt: What does this film reveal about Japanese attitudes towards World War II?
Week 6	Oct. 8	Tanizaki Junichiro's <i>The Makioka Sisters</i>
Week 7	Oct. 15	<i>Otoko wa Tsurai Yo</i> (Tora-san) Prompt: What does this film reveal about family in Japan?
Week 8	Oct. 22	Kurosawa Akira's <i>Hi and Low</i> Prompt: What does this film reveal about class in Japan?
Week 9	Oct. 29	Abe Kobo's <i>The Woman in the Dunes</i>
Week 10	Nov. 5	Itami Juzo's <i>Tampopo</i> Prompt: What does this film reveal about food in Japan?
Week 11	Nov. 12	Murakami Haruki's <i>After Dark</i>
Week 12	Nov. 19	Yoshimoto Banana's <i>Kitchen</i>
Week 13	Nov. 26	No Class: Thanksgiving Recess
Week 14	Dec. 3	Miike Takashi's <i>Audition</i> Prompt: What does this film reveal about perceptions of women in Japan?
Week 15	Dec. 10	Kirino Natsuo's <i>Out</i>

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, December 17, 6:00-8:50