

HRS 174: Japanese Culture and Literature

Spring 2016; Tuesdays 6:00-8:50; Mariposa Hall 1001

General Information

Prof. Jeffrey Dym

Office: Tahoe 3088

Office Hours: Wednesday 10:00-12:00,

Thursday 11:00-12:00, &

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. GE area C-2

Course Description

This course is designed to be a survey of modern Japanese culture and literature. We will be reading seven 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.

Course Learning Objectives

Students completing this course should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the conventions and methods of the study of the humanities.
2. Investigate, describe, and analyze the roles and effects of human culture and understanding in the development of human societies.
3. Compare and analyze various conceptions of humankind.
4. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the historical development of cultures and civilizations, including their animating ideas and values.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of 20th century Japanese literature and culture.
6. Demonstrate an awareness and appreciation for a society in great contrast to our own.
7. Demonstrate a sense of how to read, think, and write critically about the humanities.

Required Texts

Natsume Soseki, *Kusamakura*.
 Nakazawa Keiji, *Barefoot Gen*, vol.1 & 2
 Murakami Haruki, *After Dark*.
 Kirino Natsuo, *Out*.

Tanizaki Junichiro, *Naomi*.
 Abe Kobo. *The Woman in the Dunes*.
 Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen*.

Requirements and Grading Criteria

Your grade will be based on your attendance, six book quizzes, two papers, and a final exam.

Attendance and Participation	60 pts	9%
Book Quizzes (7 X 40)	280 pts	44%
Three Papers (3 x 100)	300 pts	47%
Total	640 pts	100%

Attendance Assignments

Attendance is expected at all class meetings. I do understand that you all have lives outside of Sacramento State and that at times obligations come up that you must deal with. Thus, you are allowed to miss one class before your grade is affected. For each class over one that you miss, your total points for the class will be reduced by 20 points.

Book Quizzes

There will be 7 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 you earn a failing grade on a quiz (11 or less questions correct on 20 question quiz) then you will earn a zero for the quiz. In other words, if you do not read the book, you will not earn points for just guessing.

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 will earn a zero for the quiz. There will be one make up quiz. If you miss a quiz, you can make it up by reading Junichiro Tanizaki's *The Makioka Sisters* and taking a quiz on it that will be given at 6:00 on Tuesday, May 17—the day of our scheduled final exam.

Papers

Papers should be at least 1000 words but no more than 1500 words in length and must answer the assigned. Each paper must incorporate three of the books and films that we have watched or read prior to the paper being due. You must use at least one book and one film for each paper. The third source may either be a film or a book.

Papers are due on the dates listed below. These deadlines are absolute. You must submit them on SacCT via Turnitin. Do not turn them in in class. Do not e-mail them to me. You should leave yourself plenty of time to turn in the paper in case you run into technical difficulties.

Papers will be evaluated using the Writing Rubric found in SacCT. **Please read it carefully**

Paper 1 Topic: Compare and contrast what three of these works—*Sisters of Gion*, *Kusamakura*, *Early Summer*, and *Naomi*—say about male-female relations in the first half of twentieth-century Japan.

Paper 2 Topic: Compare and contrast the “Hero’s Journey” in three of these works—*Grave of the Fireflies*, *Ikiru*, *Barefoot Gen*, *The Woman in the Dunes*, and *Otoko wa Tsurai Yo* (Tora-san). What challenges do the heroes face and how do they overcome them?

Paper 3 Topic: Compare and contrast what three of these works—*After Dark*, *Tampopo*, *Kitchen*, *Tokyo Sonata*, and *Out* (remember you must use one film and one novel)—say about the Japanese family in late 20th century and early 21st century Japan.

All three papers should be between 1000-1500 words in length. That is roughly 4-5 double spaced pages. Use the word count function in your word processor to verify the number of words in your paper. You must provide the word count on your paper. Papers should be written using a 12 point font. Do not insert blank lines between paragraphs.

General expectations:

- The paper must have a thesis!
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- Ideally the thesis will be expressed in a well articulated sentence in the introductory paragraph. You should lay out your argument without explicitly saying, “In this paper I am going to show. . . .”
- There should be a smooth transition of ideas between paragraphs. The paper should flow seamlessly between arguments.
- There should be a conclusion that sums up your paper and contains some insight and interpretation.
- Your paper should have a good title, NOT: “Paper # 1”

- The paper should be clearly written and free of errors, especially blatant ones like missing pages that indicate you did not proofread.
- Papers should be free of spelling and grammatical errors.
- All character's names should be spelled correctly
- **Please take a look at the writing rubric before you submit your paper.**

For free, one-on-one help with writing in any class, visit the University Reading and Writing Center in Calaveras 128. The Writing Center can help you at any stage in your reading and writing processes: coming up with a topic, developing and organizing a draft, understanding difficult texts, or developing strategies to become a better editor. To make an appointment or a series of appointments, visit the Reading and Writing Center in CLV 128. We also offer tutoring for one unit of academic credit through ENGL121. For current Writing Center hours and more information, visit the website at www.csus.edu/writingcenter.

Classroom Manners

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.

No talking while the films are showing!

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 papers to be your own work. If they are 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	Jan. 26	Introduction
Week 2	Feb. 2	Mizoguchi Kenji's <i>Sisters of Gion</i>
Week 3	Feb. 9	Natsume Soseki's <i>Kusamakura</i>
Week 4	Feb. 16	Ozu Yasujiro's <i>Early Summer</i>
Week 5	Feb. 23	Tanizaki Junichiro's <i>Naomi</i>
Week 6	Mar. 1	Studio Ghibili's <i>Grave of the Fireflies</i> PAPER 1 DUE
Week 7	Mar. 8	Nakagawa Kenji's <i>Barefoot Gen</i>
Week 8	Mar. 15	Kurosawa Akira's <i>Ikiru</i>
March 19-27		SPRING BREAK
Week 9	Mar. 29	Abe Kobo. <i>The Woman in the Dunes.</i>
Week 10	April 5	<i>Otoko wa Tsurai Yo</i> (Tora-san)
Week 11	April 12	Murakami Haruki's <i>After Dark</i> PAPER 2 DUE?
Week 12	April 19	Itami Juzo's <i>Tampopo</i>
Week 13	April 26	Yoshimoto Banana's <i>Kitchen</i>
Week 14	May 3	Kiyoshi Kurosawa's <i>Tokyo Sonata</i>
Week 15	May 10	Kirino Natsuo's <i>Out</i>

Final paper due by 6:00 pm Tuesday, May 17.

Make-up Book Quiz on the *Makioka Sisters*: 6:00 pm Tuesday, May 17, in the classroom.

Rubric

Name Essay Rubric

Description _____

Rubric Detail

	Levels of Achievement				
Criteria	A (Excellent)	B (Strong)	C (Adequate)	D (Seriously Flawed)	F (Fundamentally Deficient)
Submitted Properly	<p>14 to 15 points</p> <p>Submitted on time. Paper has a strong title Appropriate length (1000–1500 words). Word Count Provided. Paper formatted properly and consistently. 12 point font and double spaced. Overall professionalism of submission.</p>	<p>12 to 13 points</p> <p>Submitted on time. Issues with one or more of the following: Paper has a strong title Appropriate length (1000–1500 words). Word Count Provided. Paper formatted properly and consistently. 12 point font and double spaced. Overall professionalism of submission.</p>	<p>10 to 11 points</p> <p>Submitted on time. Issues with 2 or more of the following: Paper has a strong title Appropriate length (1000–1500 words). Word Count Provided. Paper formatted properly and consistently. 12 point font and double spaced. Overall professionalism of submission.</p>	<p>12 to 13 points</p> <p>Submitted late. Multiple issues with: Paper has a strong title Appropriate length (1000–1500 words). Word Count Provided. Paper formatted properly and consistently. 12 point font and double spaced. Overall professionalism of submission.</p>	<p>0 to 11 points</p> <p>Submitted late. Multiple issues with: Paper has a strong title Inappropriate length (1000–1500 words). Word Count Provided. Paper formatted properly and consistently. 12 point font and double spaced. Overall professionalism of submission.</p>
Thesis	<p>18 to 20 points</p> <p>The paper has a strong, sophisticated, college level thesis. The thesis is clearly articulated. The thesis is underlined.</p>	<p>16 to 17 points</p> <p>The paper has a sophisticated, college level thesis, but it lacks strength and clarity. The thesis is underlined.</p>	<p>14 to 15 points</p> <p>The paper has a thesis, but it lacks strength and clarity. The thesis is not underlined.</p>	<p>12 to 13 points</p> <p>The paper contains a weak and inarticulate thesis. The thesis is not underlined.</p>	<p>0 to 11 points</p> <p>The paper lacks a thesis or it is unintelligible. The thesis is not underlined.</p>
Arguments and Evidence	<p>18 to 20 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a clearly focused controlling idea. Demonstrates coherent and rhetorically sophisticated organization; makes effective connections between ideas. Provides clear 	<p>16 to 17 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a clearly focused controlling idea. Demonstrates clear and coherent organization. Provides clear generalizations and effective support and analysis. 	<p>14 to 15 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a controlling idea. Demonstrates adequate organization. Provides support for and some analysis of generalizations. 	<p>12 to 13 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strays from the controlling idea, or the idea is unclear. Displays formulaic, random, or confusing organization. Lacks generalizations, or provides generalizations 	<p>0 to 11 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacks a controlling idea. Lacks organization or organizes illogically. Displays inability to generalize, analyze, or support ideas.

	generalizations with specific detail, compelling support and cogent analysis			with inadequate support or analysis.	
Prose	<p>18 to 20 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Superior • Displays superior, consistent control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English. • Book titles and film titles are italicized. • No typographical nor spelling errors. • Clear evidence that the paper was proofread. 	<p>16 to 17 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent • Displays consistent control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English. • Book titles and film titles are italicized. • Few typographical and spelling errors. • Evidence that the paper was proofread. 	<p>14 to 15 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate • Displays adequate control of syntax, sentence variety, word choice, and conventions of Standard English; errors do not slow the reader, impede understanding, or seriously undermine the authority of the writer. • A number of spelling and grammatical errors. • Limited evidence that the paper was proofread. 	<p>12 to 13 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficient • Shows deficient control of syntax, word choice, and convention of Standard English; errors impede understanding. • Numerous spelling and grammatical errors. • No evidence that the paper was proofread. • Book titles and film titles are not italicized. 	<p>0 to 11 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seriously deficient • Shows inadequate control of syntax, word choice, and convention of Standard English. • Paper is plagued with spelling and grammatical errors that seriously impede understanding. • Book titles and film titles are not italicized.
Overall Quality of the Paper	<p>23 to 25 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the assignment thoughtfully and analytically, setting a challenging task. • Displays awareness of and purpose in communicating to an audience. 	<p>20 to 22 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the assignment clearly and analytically, setting a meaningful task. • Addresses audience needs and expectations. 	<p>18 to 19 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the assignment with some analysis. • Addresses most audience needs and expectations. 	<p>15 to 17 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addresses the assignment inadequately. • Shows insufficient audience awareness. 	<p>0 to 14 points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fails to address assignment. • Demonstrates a lack of audience awareness.

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