FLJP 3450: Topics in Japanese Literature and Culture

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This survey of Japanese writing covers the Tokugawa (1600-1868) and early Meiji (1868-1912) periods, examining fiction, non-fiction, and verse readings, all in English translation. Readings will cover a wide variety of genres, including: military tales, erotic tales, puppet plays, Confucian philosophical tracts, meditations, stories of the supernatural, comic books, kabuki, comedic dialogues, and parodies of classical works. The goal of the course will be to introduce students to the variety of literary production that existed during the early modern period in Japan, and to train them to read more carefully and critically. At the same time, the course aims at developing students' ability to construct interesting readings of literary works and to argue them persuasively in English.

PREREQUISITES: None

PARTICIPATION: All class members will be expected to complete all assigned readings before class meets. Students are strongly encouraged to prepare at least one point about each reading before class. Each class meeting will involve student participation, including random calling of students to present their point about the works. The ability to make a productive and interesting point when selected will affect one's participation grade, as will contribution to class in the form of questions and comments. Late arrivals disrupt class; therefore you are expected to arrive on time. Please turn off all beepers and cell phones before class begins.

EXAMINATIONS: Two exams will be given, each made up of identification questions and short essay questions.

GRADING: Your final grades will consider your participation (30%), your mid-term exam (20%), one short writing assignment (20%), and your final exam (30%).

Grading Scale: A = 90-100, B = 80-89, C = 70-79, D = 60-69, F = 0-59%.

Students needing accommodations should arrange a meeting the first week of class. Come during office hours or email for an alternate time. Bring the Accommodation Memo and Instructor Verification Form to the meeting. Discuss items needed in this class. If you do not have an Accommodation Memo but need special accommodations, make an appointment with The Program for Students with Disabilities, 1244 Haley Center, 844-2096 (V/TT)

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to behave with integrity. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in the manner specified in the Tiger Cub.

Students may withdraw (although with a W on their transcript) until midsemester.
Make-ups for all missed and late work are allowed with proper University approved excuses within one week of the original due date.

Student emails will be answered within 48 hours of receipt.

The final exam will be given at the University set time and date.

Class attendance is required.

All readings are to be completed before coming to class.

There are no unannounced quizzes.


SCHEDULE

Week 1  Introductions

Week 2  Ch. 1 Early Modern Japan

Week 3  Ch. 2 Kana Booklets and the Emergence of Print Culture

Week 4  Ch. 3 Ihara Saikaku

  - "The Calendar Maker's Wife" (60-82)
  - "Life of a Sensuous Woman" (82-120)

Week 5  Ch. 3 Saikaku

  - "Though Bearing an Umbrella" (120-127)
  - "In Death They Share the Same Wave Pillow" (127-131)
  - "In the Past, on Credit, Now Cash Down" (131-136)
  - "In Our Impermanent World, Even Doorposts Are Borrowed" (150-154)

Week 6  Ch. 4 & Ch. 12 Comic and Satiric Poetry

Week 7  Ch. 5 Matsuo Basho

  - Bashô and the Art of Haikai (178-206)
Week 8  Ch. 5 Basho
   • "Narrow Road to the Deep North" (209-232)

Week 9  Ch. 6 Chikamatsu Monzaemon
   • "The Love Suicides at Sonezaki" (242-259)
   • "The Love Suicides at Amijima" (313-347)

Week 10 Ch. 6 Chikamatsu (con't)
   • "The Drum of the Waves of Horikawa" (259-283)
   • "The Battles of Coxinga" (283-301)
   • "The Heike and the Island of Women" (301-313)

Week 11 Chs. 7-8 Confucian Studies & Official’s Autobiography

Week 12  In-class mid-term examination and review

Week 13 Ch. 10 Joruri: The Storehouse of Loyal Retainers

Week 14 Ch. 11 Early Kokkeibon: The Modern Life of Shidoken

Week 15 Ch. 13 Literati: Yosa Buson

   The final exam will be on the University-set date and time of the final examination period.