

KCJS Spring 2016

Wednesday & Friday 1:10-2:40

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The Act of Expression and Japanese Literatures

Course Description:

Since words bear unique meanings depending on their source culture, we cannot decode a text as we would a list of numbers or signs. A text exists between other texts, between the past and future and between the writer and the reader.

The Meiji Restoration brought rapid, unrivaled social change to Japan, a country that was kept culturally and politically closed for centuries. Over the last 140 years, Japan has devoted much of its energy to adopting Western culture. However, the pace and force of change caused serious internal struggles and tensions, especially for Meiji intellectuals. Some threw themselves indiscriminately into the huge experiment of modernization, with a largely uncritical admiration of Western culture and its values. Others studied Western modernization carefully, and while impressed and intrigued by it, found themselves unable to embrace it wholeheartedly. Here a deep and uneasy relationship between self and modernity arose.

In this course we will examine how Meiji intellectuals expressed these tensions between traditional Japan and the Western world in their work(s) and how they sought common ground between two different cultures and backgrounds. How does the voice of Meiji appeal to us in the present day, if at all? What was the legacy of Meiji for postwar and contemporary writers such as Mishima Yukio and Murakami Haruki? In this class we will use authentic texts and essays, along with cinematic adaptations and fieldtrips to historical sites in Kyoto, to explore these themes.

Text for Purchase:

夏目漱石 2013. 『草枕』 新潮文庫

Other texts and essays drawn from the sources below will be distributed in class:

芥川龍之介 2004 『地獄編・邪宗門・好色・藪の中』 岩波文庫

大峰顕 1989 『花月の思想-東西思想の対話のために-』 東洋書房

鴨長明 2001 『方丈記・発心集・嘆異抄』 三木紀人訳 学燈文庫

柄谷行人 2012 『日本近代文学の起源』 岩波現代文庫

静永健 「竹取物語 「月の顔見ることは忌むこと」考」2013 『生と死の探求』九州大学出版

夏目漱石 2001 『こころ』 新潮文庫

- 前田愛 2000 『文学テキスト入門』 ちくま学芸文庫
- 三島由紀夫 2013 『金閣寺』 新潮文庫
- 村上春樹 2014 『風の歌を聴け』 講談社文庫
- 森鷗外 2013 『山椒大夫・高瀬舟』 新潮文庫
- 柳田泉他 2000 『明治・大正文学史』 (1)-(3)
『竹取物語』 川端康成現代語訳 講談社インターナショナル
『平家物語』 (十二) 杉本慶三郎 全訳注 講談社学術文庫
- Erich Fromm 1976 *To Have or To Be* Abacus
- Donald Keene 1999 *World Within Walls: Japanese Literature of the Pre-Modern Era, 1600-1867*
(History of Japanese Literature)
- Mauricce Merleau-Ponty 1998 *Signs* Northwestern University Press
- Edward W. Said 1978 *Orientalism* Vintage

Course Format:

Classes will alternate between lectures, students' participation, presentations, film showings and fieldtrips relevant sites to the authors and works we deal in class. Student must come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading to make an occasional presentation. Although most of readings are either short stories or excerpts, you will be reading some of the stories entirely. We use Japanese texts in class, it is also available for you to read the copies of the translations in the KCJS office.

You will make a presentation the assigned chapter(s) of *Kusamakura* by Natsume Soseki (Explained more in class). Please keep in mind the following questions: How is the story being told? What themes emerge? Which passages appeal to you most? How does it appeal to us in the present day, if at all? Do you find any particularity of Japanese and universality in it? Finally how is the translation? Does the choice of the word(s) translated make any difference(s)? We'll discuss them in classes.

Evaluation:

Presentations	20%
2 Essays	20%
Attendance and class participation	20 %
Final Paper	40%

Jan. 13 Course Introduction: 日本文学史概要

Jan. 15 森鷗外 『高瀬舟』 -between Edo and Meiji Restoration-

Jan.20 **Fieldtrip to Takasegawa Nijo Garden and Daihikaku-Senkoji temple in Saga, Arashi-yama (TBA)**

Jan. 22 森鷗外 『高瀬舟』 -between Edo and Meiji Restoration-

Jan. 27 夏目漱石 『草枕』 -between the West and East -

Reading: Chapter 1

Jan. 29 夏目漱石 『草枕』

Student Presentation: Chapter 2, Chapter 3

村上春樹 『風邪の声を聴け』 —身体から切り離されたことば—

Feb. 3 夏目漱石 『草枕』

Student Presentation: Chapter 4, Chapter 5

村上春樹『風の声を聴け』 -from detachment to commitment-

Reading: 柄谷行人 論文「日本近代文学の起源」風景の発見、内面の発見-Discovery of Landscape, and of interiority-

Paper 1 (Due Fri 2/10)

Feb. 5 No Class (KCJS Spring Trip)

Feb. 10 夏目漱石 『草枕』

Student Presentation: Chapter 6, Chapter 7

三島由紀夫 『金閣寺』 一美を求めて一 What is beauty?

Reading: excerpt

Feb. 12 夏目漱石 『草枕』

Student Presentation: Chapter 8, Chapter 9

三島由紀夫 『金閣寺』

Feb. 17 夏目漱石 『草枕』

Student Presentation: Chapter 10, Chapter 11

三島由紀夫 『金閣寺』 一美を求めて一 What is beauty?

Reading: excerpt

Feb. 19 夏目漱石 『草枕』

Student Presentation: Chapter 12, Chapter 13

三島由紀夫 『金閣寺』 一美を求めて一 What is beauty?

Reading: excerpt

Feb. 24 芥川龍之介 『地獄編』 -芸術至上主義- Issue of art for art's sake

Feb. 26 芥川龍之介 『地獄編』 -芸術至上主義- Issue of art for art's sake

Paper 2 (Due Wed 3/11)

Mar. 2 ---- **Spring Break** ----

Mar. 4 ----**Spring Break** ----

Mar. 9 大峰顕「花月の思想-芭蕉とヘルダーリン」 *Nature, Man, and Poetry : Basho and Holderlin*1989『花月の思想—東西思想の対話のために—』 -What is expression?-

Mar. 11 大峰顕「花月の思想-芭蕉とヘルダーリン」 *Nature, Man, and Poetry : Basho and Holderlin*1989『花月の思想—東西思想の対話のために—』 What is expression?

Mar.16 大峰顕「花月の思想-芭蕉とヘルダーリン」 *Nature, Man, and Poetry : Basho and Holderlin*1989『花月の思想—東西思想の対話のために—』 What is expression?

Mar.18 鴨長明「方丈記」から見えてくる平安時代の京都

Mar. 23 鴨長明「方丈記」

Mar. 25 「平家物語」から見えてくる平安末期の京都

Mar. 30 「平家物語」 reading: excerpt

Apr. 1 **Fieldtrip to Shimogamo shrine and Ohara sanzen-in (or Chokyu-ji temple) (TBA)**

Apr. 6 スタジオジブリの「かぐや姫の物語」と「竹取物語」

Apr. 8 スタジオジブリの「かぐや姫の物語」と「竹取物語」

Final Paper (Due Fri 4/15)

Apr. 13 Working on final paper

Apr. 15 Hand in Final Paper

Order and allotment of time for each topic are subject to change