

Representations of War and Peace in Modern Japanese Literature

Spring 2019 Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies

Nanyan Guo (Dr.)

OBJECTIVES

This course provides an introduction to modern Japanese literature with a focus on representations of war and peace from the 1890s to the 1950s. Major wars involving Japan during this time period, including the Sino-Japanese War, Russo-Japanese War, and Asia-Pacific War, all had strong impacts on Japanese psychology. Modern Japan cannot be understood fully without examining their effects on its people.

Japanese literature contains many representations of battle scenes, the pain and suffering of soldiers and ordinary people, anti-war efforts, and citizens longing for peace. By reading and analyzing various literary texts, students in this course will gain basic knowledge of modern Japanese literature and insights into Japanese people's attitudes toward war. This course aims to deepen students' critical appreciation of Japanese modern culture using excerpts of novels, short stories and poems (both in Japanese and in English translation). Film adaptations of several novels will be screened as well.

This course also offers training in translation (from Japanese to English), in order to familiarize students with essential terms of Japanese literature and culture. Field trips to two peace museums will give students opportunities to closely examine war documents and objects, and to gain firsthand knowledge of wartime life.

FORMAT

Class meetings consist of reading, discussing, presenting, translating, and screening of film excerpts, as well as a field trip to the Kyoto Museum for World Peace. Students will also visit the Hiroshima Peace Park and Memorial Museum during the annual KCJS Spring Trip.

REQUIREMENT AND GRADING POLICY

Students are required to attend all the classes, read all the literary texts before class discussions, give a presentation, write a research essay, and take the final examination.

Attendance: 10%; Class discussion: 20%; A class presentation: 20%
A research essay (due April 15, Monday): 20%; Final exam: 30%

Once class has started, please turn off and put away cell phones, and refrain from exiting and re-entering the classroom to use the restroom. Use of laptop computers during class is restricted to taking notes.

READING LIST

A Reader for this course will be compiled to focus on six themes: (1) Sino -Japanese War and Russo-Japanese War; (2) Japan-China War; (3) Asia-Pacific War; (4) Battles in Japan; (5) Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; (6) Occupied Japan. Each theme will be covered by short stories, novellas and poems. Students shall purchase a copy of Shohei Ooka's novel *Fires on the Plain*.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Class 1, January 15, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

A brief history of the Sino-Japanese War and the Russo-Japanese War
Tayama Katai, *One Soldier*

Class 2, January 17, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Tayama Katai, *One Soldier*
Yosano Akiko's poem, "Brother, You Must Not Die"

Class 3, January 22, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Ishikawa Jun, *Mars' Song*

Class 4, January 24, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Translation of Niimi Nankichi's short story *Chō Kōrin*

Class 5, January 29, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

A brief history of the Japan-China War (1930s-1940s)
Hino Ashihei, *Wheat and Soldiers*

Class 6, January 30, 2019 (Wednesday, 2:55-4:25pm)

A field trip to the Kyoto Museum for World Peace

Class 7, January 31, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Students' presentations
Group discussions

Class 8, February 12, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

A brief history of the Asia-Pacific War
Ōoka Shōhei, *Fires on the Plain*

Class 9, February 13, 2019 (Wednesday, 2:55-4:25pm)

Ōoka Shōhei, *Fires on the Plain*

Class 10, February 14, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Ōoka Shōhei, *Fires on the Plain*

Film adaptation

Class 11, February 19, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Umezaki Haruo, *Sakurajima*

Class 12, February 21, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Students' presentations

Group discussions

Class 13, February 26, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Yamanokuchi Baku's poem, "Okinawa, Where Will You Go?"

Translation of Haitani Kenjirō's short story *The Hands*

Class 14, February 28, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Hara Tamiki, *Summer Flowers*

Class 15, March 12, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Ōta Yūko, *City of Corpses*

Class 16, March 14, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Tōge Sankichi, *Poems of the Atomic Bomb*

Film adaptation of Ibuse Masuji's novel *Black Rain*

Class 17, March 19, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Students' presentations

Group discussions

Class 18, March 26, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Ishikawa Jun, *The Jesus of the Ruins*

Class 19, March 28, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Ishikawa Jun, *The Jesus of the Ruins*

Translation of Ibaraki Noriko's poem "When I Was Most Beautiful"

Class 20, April 2, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Hayashi Fumiko, *Bones*

Class 21, April 4, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Hirabayashi Taiko, *Blind Chinese Soldiers*

Class 22, April 9, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Shiga Naoya, *A Gray Moon*,

Class 23, April 11, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Nosaka Akiyuki, *American Hijiki*

Class 24, April 16, 2019 (Tuesday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Conclusion

Class 25, April 18, 2019 (Thursday, 1:10-2:40pm)

Final examination