

Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies

Course Syllabus – Spring 2024

## Japanese Modern Literature as World Literature

(in advanced-level Japanese)

世界文学としての日本近代文学（上級日本語）

KCJS, Spring 2024, Monday and Thursday 1:10-2:40

Instructor: Shigemi Nakagawa

### Course Description

Japanese literature has a history of over 1,000 years. Despite the fact that Japanese is one of the less spoken languages in the world, Japanese literature has made a global impact, probably because of its long history and an interest in its special cultural background.

In this course, we will consider various methods for rethinking Japanese literature as world literature, while at the same time exploring how Japanese literature has been generated in the modern era.

Specifically, we will read literature, Japanese short stories, from the Meiji period to present onward, while considering how "Japanese modern literature" developed in the cultural context of modern Japan. At the same time, we will attempt to read literature centered on discussion, referring to visual works and other materials, while taking up a wide range of issues shared by the world, such as imperialism, colonialism, Marxism, and gender, in a contemporaneous manner.

This class will consist of lectures, discussions, and presentations. In lieu of a final exam, students will give a presentation on the research topic of their choice and write a final paper based on their own research and analysis.

Students are expected to compile by the beginning of the class a short essay on Japanese literature, Japanese films, animation, manga, etc. that they have been exposed to. From there, we will begin to consider the global simultaneity of Japanese literature and culture. It is hoped that this will be a fruitful learning experience in the Japanese language and literature for the

students.

Occasionally it may be useful for us to refer to translations of the original to analyze stylistic aspects of the work or discuss strategies for interpreting and translating a literary work, but as much as possible, the texts to be read in class as well as the language of instruction and discussion of our readings will be in Japanese. Students will therefore be expected to be at advanced (fourth-year) level Japanese or higher to take this class.

### **Evaluation:**

Weekly assignments: (10 X 3%) 30%

Presentation and Final Essay assignment:30%

Class presentation: 15%

Final essay (due April 22) 20%

Participation and Progress: 10%

Percentage grades will be assigned to all work submitted.

### **WEEK I**

January 15: Introduction to course and its methods: What is Japanese Modern literature?

Short introduction of Japanese Literature History.

Readings: Mitsuyoshi NUMANO “Toward a New Age of World Literature”

[file:///C:/Users/imagi/Downloads/reny001012%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/imagi/Downloads/reny001012%20(1).pdf)

January 18: Tales of Genji in modern era. Translation and adaptation within Japanese literature. What is world literature?

Reading: Michael Emmerich The Tale of Genji: Translation, Canonization, and World Literature, Columbia University Press, 2013

[https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=\\_S8AAQAAQBAJ&pg=GBS.PA1&hl=ja](https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=_S8AAQAAQBAJ&pg=GBS.PA1&hl=ja)

### **WEEK II**

January 22: World literature vs Japanese literature? How to consider Literature conception.

Readings: Hirabayashi Taiko “Blind Chinese soldier” 盲中国兵

January 25: War and Literature

Readings: Shigemi Nakagawa : “Reading War” 「戦争をよむ」岩波新書 2017

### WEEK III

January 29: Reading Japanese modern literature 1: Natsume Soseki 現代日本の開化

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/759\\_44901.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/759_44901.html)

February 1: Reading Japanese modern literature 2 : Mori Ogai”妄想“

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000129/files/683\\_23194.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000129/files/683_23194.html)

### WEEK IV

February 5: Reading Japanese literature 3: Nagai Kafu” 新歸朝者日記“11月28日

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001341/files/59298\\_73052.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001341/files/59298_73052.html)

February 8 : Reading Japanese literature 4: Arishima Takeo”二つの道“

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000025/files/207\\_42018.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000025/files/207_42018.html)

### WEEK V

February 12: Holiday

February 15: Reading Japanese literature 5: Akutagawa Ryunosuke: “藪の中”

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000879/files/24454\\_47036.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000879/files/24454_47036.html)

### WEEK VI

February 19: Literature and Cinema :

Film: Kurosawa Akira “Rashomon ” 羅生門

February 22: Discussion How consider the difference between literature and cinema

Reading: Nigel Andrews” How Akira Kurosawa conquered the west — and gave back”

<https://www.ft.com/content/29b63a0f-3c30-4de9-9456-fa48118978ff>

### WEEK VII

February 26: Reading Japanese literature 6: Yokomitsu Riichi “頭ならび腹“

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000168/files/2158\\_23275.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000168/files/2158_23275.html)

February 29: Reading Japanese literature 7: Hayama Yoshiki “セメント樽の中の手紙”

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000031/files/228\\_21664.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000031/files/228_21664.html)

reading: George Sipos” Tenko: Cultures of Political Conversion in Transwar Japan”

Routledge 2021

### WEEK VIII

March 4- 7 Spring break

## WEEKIX

March11:Reading Japanese literature8 : Hara Tamiki”夏の花“

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000293/files/4680\\_18529.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000293/files/4680_18529.html)

March 14:Reading Literature and Atomic bomb:

John Whittier Treat “Writing Ground Zero: Japanese Literature and the Atomic Bomb”

## WEEK X

March11 : Reading Japanese literature9 : Sakaguchi Ango“天皇小論”

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001095/files/42891\\_21292.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001095/files/42891_21292.html)

March14: Reading Japanese literature10:Hayashi Fumiko”下町“

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000291/files/42159\\_23807.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000291/files/42159_23807.html)

[https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=UIajAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA74&hl=ja&source=gbv\\_toc\\_r&cad=1#v=onepage&q&f=true](https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=UIajAAAAIAAJ&pg=PA74&hl=ja&source=gbv_toc_r&cad=1#v=onepage&q&f=true)

## WEEKXI

March18 : Japanese Women’s contemporary Literature

Reading:JoanEricson”The orijins of the concept of “Women’s Literature”

March 21:Spring Trip

## WEEKXII

March25:Reading Japanese Literature11: Tanizaki Junichiro”細雪「回顧」“

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001383/files/57371\\_65232.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001383/files/57371_65232.html)

March28:Film Ichikawa Kon”細雪“

Reading: Tanizaki Junichiro”細雪”

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001383/files/56698\\_59488.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001383/files/56698_59488.html)

## WEEKXIII

April1: Film Ichikawa Kon”細雪“

Reading: Tanizaki Junichiro”細雪”

[https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001383/files/56698\\_59488.html](https://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/001383/files/56698_59488.html)

April4:reading Japanese literature:Disaster and Literature,Tsushima Yuko”半減期を祝って“

Reading: Kimura Saeko /anne bayard”世界文学としての“震災後文学”明石書店 2021

## WEEK XIV

April 8,11: Student Presentations

## **WEEK XV**

April 15, 18: Student Presentations

### **Reference Books for Further Study**

David Damrosch "What is World Literature" Princeton Univ. Press 2003

Emily Apter "The translation Zone" Princeton Univ. Press 2006

Franco Moretti "Distant Reading" Verso 2013

Alexander Beecroft "An ecology of world literature" Verso 2015

Pheng Cheah "What is a world" Duke Univ. Press 2016