

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures  
Oakland University**

**JPN 420 Japanese Literature –Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, 4 credits**

**Winter 2010**

**Course Catalogue Description:** Reading texts of various genres. Conducted in Japanese.

**Prerequisites:** JPN 314, 318 and 355.

Sensei: Seigo Nakao, PhD

Office: 354 O’Dowd Hall.

Office Hours: MWF: 2:30-3:30. Or by appointment. Office Phone: (248) 370-2066.

Email address: nakao@oakland.edu

This class satisfies the General Education requirement for the **Capstone Experience in the Major**.

Satisfies the university general education requirement for a **Writing Intensive in the Major**.

**Prerequisites** for the writing intensive: JPN 314, 318, and 355; also, completion of the university writing foundation requirement.

**General Education Learning Outcomes:**

***Integration Knowledge Area:***

As a capstone course,

The student will demonstrate:

- appropriate uses of a variety of methods of inquiry (through exposure to a variety of literary approaches via lectures and research) and a recognition of ethical considerations that arise (through discussions and written treatments [tests, research paper] of literary themes).
- the ability to integrate the knowledge learned in general education (foreign language and culture, and literature) and its relevance to the student’s life and career.

***Knowledge Areas:***

1. Foreign Language and Culture Students integrate the following ACTFL national standard skills in the Japanese language: speaking (class discussions), listening (lectures), reading (literary texts), culture and writing (tests, papers) in the context of Japanese literature.
2. Literature Students will develop and integrate literary knowledge of genres and periods from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, demonstrating how literature is a manifestation of culture and how literary form functions to enable this artistic expression.

***Cross-Cutting Capacities:***

1. Effective Communication - Students engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, and exchange opinions through their study of Japanese literature. They acquire the literary terminology and understanding of literary form that will enable them to communicate and formulate their ideas more effectively.
2. Critical Thinking - Students will develop an appreciation for reading and hone their critical thinking skills through textual analysis. Students will further develop critical thinking by writing two term papers on a literary topic.

3. Social Awareness - The study of Japanese literature will enable the students to move beyond individual experience by participating in the intellectual, emotional and spiritual experiences of others and by giving them an appreciation for a literature that derives from a culture different from their own.

**I. Texts:** All the following texts are available in Japanese by Moodle.

Primary texts:

Akutagawa, Ryunosuke. Edo no Butokai. (handout. In Japanese only)  
Dazai, Osamu. (tentative) Farancois Villon's Wife. (handout. In Japanese)  
---. Setting Sun. Trans. Donald Keene. New Directions, 1968.  
Nasume, Soseki. Kokoro. Trans. Edwin McLean. Gateway, 1957.  
Mishima, Yukio. "Rokumeikan," My Friend Hitler. Trans. Hiroaki Sato. Columbia UP, 2002.  
Mori, Ogai. "Hanako"; Dancer. (handout)  
Tanizaki, Junichiro. Naomi. Trans. Anthony Chambers. Vintage, 2001.

Secondary texts:

Soseki: My Individualism (library).  
...: Inside the Glass Door (library).  
...: Ten Nights Dreams (handout).  
Ogai Mori: "A Sad Tale"; "Exorcizing Demons"; "Play" (included in Youth and Other Stories, library).  
Akutagawa: "Martyr," included in Rashomon and Other Stories (library).  
Tanizaki: "Children," included in The Gourmet Club: A Sextet (handout).  
---: (tentative) "Bridge of Dreams," included in Contemporary Japanese Literature: an Anthology of Fiction, Film, and Other Writing Since 1945 (library).  
---: The Diary of a Mad Old Man and The Key (library).  
Mishima: Black Lizard (handout).  
---: Confessions of a Mask (library).  
---: Sound of the Waves (library).  
---: The Sailor Who Fell from Grace with the Sea (library)  
---: Sun and Steel (library).  
Dazai: (tentative) "On Love and Beauty"; "Lanterns of Romance," included in Blue Bamboo: Japanese Tales of Fantasy (handout).  
...: "I Can Speak"; "My Elder Brothers"; "Handsome Devils and Cigarettes," included in Osamu Dazai: Self Portrait (handout).

Recommended Readings:

Bergen, Doris G. Suicidal Honor: General Nogi and the Writings of Mori Ogai and Natsume Soseki. Hawaii UP.  
Doi, Tako. The Anatomy of Self. Kodansha International.  
Edstrom, Bert. The Japanese and Europe: Images and Perceptions (Japan Library)  
Gale Reference Team. "Biography - Mori Ogai (1862-1922)." Contemporary Authors. 2007 (digital- HTML).  
Gluk, Carol. Japan's Modern Myth. Princeton UP, 1987.  
Gwenn B. Petersen. The Moon in the Water. Hawaii UP, 1979.  
Ito, Ken. Visions of Desire. Stanford UP, 1991.  
Karatani, Kojin. Trans. Brett de Barry. Origins of Modern Japanese Literature. Duke UP, 1993.  
Kato, Shuichi. A History of Japanese Literature. 3 vols. Kodansha International.

- Keene, Donald. Dawn to the West. Holt, Reinhart and Winston, 1984.
- Natsume, Soseki. My Individualism and the Philosophical Foundations of Literature (Tuttle Classics of Japanese Literature. Tuttle, 2005.
- . The Tower of London. Peter Owen Ltd., 2006.
- Marcus, Marvin. Paragons of the Ordinary: The Biographical Literature of Mori Ogai. Hawaii UP, 1993.
- Morris Low. Building a Modern Japan: Science, Technology, and Medicine in the Meiji Era and Beyond. Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- Murray, Giles. Exploring Japanese Literature: Read Mishima, Tanizaki, and Kawabata in the Original. Kodansha International, 2007.
- Piven, Jerry S. The Madness and Perversion of Yukio Mishima. Praeger Publishers, 2004.
- Samson, G. B. The Western World and Japan. Knopf.
- Scot-Stokes, S. The Life of Yukio Mishima. Cooper Square P, 2000.
- Wolfe, Alan. Suicidal Narrative in Modern Japan: The Case of Dazai Osamu. Princeton UP, 1990.
- Wolfe, Peter. Yukio Mishima. Continuum, 1989.
- Yamanouchi, Hisaaki. The Search for Authenticity in Modern Japanese Literature. Columbia UP, 1980.
- Okada, Sumie. Japanese Writers and the West. Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

#### Encyclopedias.

- The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Japan. Cambridge UP, 1993.
- Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan. 9 vols. Kodansha, 1983.

## **II. Objectives and course descriptions:**

Course Theme: Japan-West Interaction.

Thematic reading of the early West-Japan encounters through the selected works by five representative modern Japanese writers of Meiji, Taisho and Showa. This class involves: 1. Close reading of the text--the majority in English translation but in some cases in both original and English; 2. understand the historical, ideological and cultural backgrounds that implicitly or explicitly referred or described in the stories; 3. critical analysis of the themes and to view them from the 21st century perspective; 4. impact the West brought to Japan, and its pros and cons, or relevancy or irrelevancy of such questions. You are required to expand this topic to other authors not included in the reading list. For example, your favorite Haruki Murakami or Banana Yoshimoto cannot be discussed without mentioning the interaction between Japan and the West.

## **III. Requirements:**

### **1. Attendance** (10 %).

Excellent attendance and participation. To be in the class at 9:20 am. If you have a chronic conflict with this class's schedule, you should take this course in the future when your schedule is compatible with the class schedule. (0 absence =10 pts; 1 absence =9; 2=8; 3=7; 4=6; 5=5; 6=4; 7 and more absences = expelled from the class without notice.)

### **2. Assignments** (10 %). 5 assignments: you give the synopsis of the texts in Japanese. 1 page/each.

Submission of the assignments in hard copy on time--delays are not accepted whatever the reasons are--please type them or write them decipherably.

### **3) Quizzes** (10 %). Each time we finish one primary text, you will be given a quiz on: author, time, characters, storyline, themes, and historical, cultural, social or political backgrounds of the text.

Take all the exams and quizzes on the scheduled dates by all means. In principle, no makeup is given. Quizzes are given towards the end of the class.

4 **Term papers** (30 x 2 %). You submit two term papers--Midterm and Final. Your topics are not restricted to the topic discussed in the class. For instance, feminine perspective on Dancing Girl.

1) Midterm. On any writer and on any topic. 6 pages including notes and bibliography.

2) Final: on any writer, work, topic. 8 page including notes and bibliography.

5. **Presentations** (10 %). Besides the final presentation on the last three days of the class, you are (assigned) going to present each primary text; you are also required to give another presentation on one secondary text (assigned to you individually). The presenters are required to initiate discussions. You are invited to participate in discussions. Discussions are conducted both in Japanese and English. You take the initiative of the discussions and the professor remains a commentator. 15 minutes/presentation.

## VI. Grading Scale: total score

A+: 97+ 4.0, 3.9

A : 93+ 3.8

A-: 90+ 3.7, 3.6

B+: 87+ 3.5, 3.4

B : 83+ 3.3, 3.2

B-: 80+ 3.1, 3.0

C+: 77+ 2.9, 2.8, 2.7

C : 73+ 2.6, 2.5, 2.4, 2.3

C-: 70+ 2.2, 2.1, 2.0

D+: 67+ 1.9, 1.8, 1.7

D : 63+ 1.6, 1.5, 1.4, 1.3

D-: 60+ 1.2, 1.1, 1.0

F: 59.9- 0.0

Conversion of the grades into the numerals of your papers:

A+ =10, A=9, A-=8, B+=7, and so on (in the 10 scale ratio).

Schedule is subject to change.

Date	Author	
1. 1/6	Ogai	Introduction. A Japanese in Paris--Hanako.
2. 1/8	Ogai	Hanako. Dancer.
3. 1/11	Ogai	A Japanese in Berlin--Dancer.
4. 1/13	Ogai	Dancer
5. 1/15	Ogai	Dancer
6. 1/18	Holiday	
7. 1/20	Ogai	Dancer, a movie. Ogai's other writings.
8. 1/22	Ogai	Ogai's other writings.
9. 1/25	Soseki	A Japanese in London--Soseki's writings. A Foreigner in Japan--Kokoro I
10. 1/27	Soseki	Kokoro I
11. 1/29	Soseki	Kokoro II
12. 2/1	Soseki	Kokoro II
13. 2/3	Soseki	Kokoro III
14. 2/5	Soseki	Kokoro III
15. 2/8	Soseki	Kokoro , a movie
16. 2/10	Soseki	Kokoro, a movie (conti).
17. 2/12	Soseki	Soseki's other writings.
18. 2/15	Akutagawa	A Frenchman in Tokyo: Edo no butokai
19. 2/17	Akutagawa	Edo no butokai.
20. 2/19	Akutagawa	Akutagawa's other writings.

	1st paper due.	
21. 3/1	Akutagawa	Akutagawa's other writings.
22. 3/3	Mishima	Foreigners in Japan: Rokumeikan
23. 3/5	Mishima	Rokumeikan
24. 3/8	Mishima	Rokumeikan
25. 3/10	Mishima	Rokumeikan, a movie (tentative)
26. 3/12	Mishima	Mishima's other writings.
27. 3/15	Mishima	Mishima's other writings; Mishima, a movie
28. 3/17	Tanizaki	Hollywood in Japan: Naomi
29. 3/19	Tanizaki	Naomi
30. 3/22	Tanizaki	Naomi
31. 3/24	Tanizaki	Naomi
32. 3/26	Tanizaki	Key, a movie
33. 3/29	Tanizaki	Tanizaki's other writings.
34. 3/31	Dazai	Christianity in Japan: Merry Christmas; Setting Sun
35. 4/2	Dazai	Setting Sun
36. 4/5	Dazai	Setting Sun
37. 4/7	Dazai	European Literature in Japan: Love and Beauty; Lantern of Romances
38. 4/9	Dazai	Dazai's other writings (1)
39. 4/12	Dazai	Dazai's other writings (2) Wrap up.
	2nd paper due	
40. 4/14	Presentations 1	10 minutes/presenter
41. 4/16	Presentations 2	
42. 4/19	Presentations 3	