

JPN 4930/LIT 4930

Traditional Japanese dolls in Japan and America

3 credit hours

Spring 2018

T7 R7-8

Instructors: Judith P. Shoaf, Alan Scott Pate

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Description

This course introduces the long history of Japanese *ningyo* (人形, “human figure”), with an emphasis on the relationship between artistic development of the form and the economic, social, and political importance of doll-making and doll-owning through the centuries.

The second part of the course will focus on the Western reception of Japanese dolls and the use of the doll to interpret Japanese culture. This will include reading some late 19th- and early 20th-century children’s books and other texts which characterize the Japanese as feminine/infantile. The Japanese-American Friendship or Messenger Doll exchange of 1927 will be considered from the point of view both of the Americans and the Japanese. *Note: This part of the class addresses issues of American racism as directed towards the Japanese. It includes examining the use of the word “Jap,” the sexualization of Japanese culture by the West, and other sensitive material.*

The classes will include the opportunity to see, handle, and photograph many types of doll from the instructors’ collections, as well as children’s books, cards, etc. from the late 19th and early 20th century illustrating American reception of Japanese baby dolls. In February, one class will be devoted to setting up a display for Hina Matsuri, and discussing the dolls and their furniture.

The classes will be taught in English, though some of the vocabulary will of course be Japanese. No knowledge of the Japanese language is required. We would also welcome students of American or English literature, art, women’s studies and other disciplines. The course would be of special interest to students of art history or children’s literature.

Goals: As with most humanities courses, different students will begin the course with varied goals and these will change during the semester. That said, all students should be able to:

- Differentiate among the Heian, Edo, and Meiji periods, and discuss the role of dolls in the nostalgia of each period for earlier times.
- Recognize the main types of traditional dolls, using the Japanese terms comfortably, and discuss a specific doll presented in person or photo, or in a work of art (including literature, woodblock prints, manga, anime, and film).
- Discuss the economic, political, and social value of each type in the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Discuss the uses of human figures in mainstream, and to some extent local, Japanese cultures.
- Interpret the Japanese doll as actor and symbol in the late 19th-century Western attempt to colonize (or “understand”) Japan.

Texts

Required purchase: Pate, *Ningyô: The Art of the Japanese Doll* (Tuttle: 2005). This is available as a Kindle book as well as a beautiful hardback. You will not be required to bring it to class.

Course Reserves (CR): may be accessed through Canvas or the Library website. Some physical books will also be placed on reserve at the Library.

Canvas: The reading list on Canvas is always the most important. Links from Canvas may include articles posted only in Canvas, videos on UF's Mediasite, or public-domain websites such as HathiTrust.

Students are encouraged to bring cameras (phones or others) to class to photograph dolls. Except for this, the use of electronic devices in class requires permission.

Other online resources:

Alan Pate's website has many images and also 3 pages of his publications:

<http://www.antiquejapanesedolls.com/publications.html> (click on the articles; most of them are posted online).

Judy Shoaf's websites: On Japanese Dolls <https://people.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/japanese-dolls/>

The Japanese Doll on the Western Toyshelf (pretty

chaotic): <http://users.clas.ufl.edu/jshoaf/Jdolls/jdollwestern/>

Hard Resources: Both Dr. Shoaf and Mr. Pate will keep a library of materials in their offices and welcome opportunities to share them with students. In particular, those interested in Western children's literature should see Dr. Shoaf's collection early in the semester.

Policies and Expectations:

a. **The Honor Code:** *We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.* On all work submitted for credit by students at the university, the following pledge is either required or implied: "*On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.*" All sources of information, including print, digital, and verbal, must be acknowledged. Verbatim materials must be indicated as such with quotations marks, and cited.

b. **Special Accommodations:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Please visit Dr. Shoaf early in the semester.

c. **Attendance and Participation:** Class sessions will combine lectures, discussions, and presentations. Your attendance and active participation is essential to the success of the course, and to your grade.

d. **Preparation and Assignments:** Read the assigned text(s) carefully ahead of time, and be prepared to discuss them on the date that they appear in the Daily Schedule. **All assignments, exams and projects are due on the date indicated in the Daily Schedule.**

e. **Make-up Exams:** Prior notification to Dr. Shoaf, and written documentation of illness or family emergency is required. Consult with instructor to schedule the make-up exam and other necessary activities.

f. **Instructor evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

Assignments and grading

Attendance and class participation: 10%

Five Canvas discussions (lowest grade dropped): 20%

Two short (3-5 pp) descriptive papers, one on a doll and one on a Western text or graphic depiction of a Japanese doll: 20%

Two in-class tests, demonstrating mastery of vocabulary and some historical knowledge: 25%

Final project: a longer (10-12pp) essay or other presentation incorporating research and revision: 25%

- The final topic needs to be chosen by March 13.
- A draft is due before April 12, and must be discussed with one of the instructors.

Late submissions will be downgraded by 5% for each day beyond the deadline.

Schedule of topics and readings

Week 1

Jan. 9: What is a doll?

Jan. 11: What is a *ningyō*?

Readings for Jan. 11:

- Pate, *Ningyō: The Art of the Japanese Doll*, Introduction, pp. 8-15. (CR)
- Kybburz, “Omocha: A thing not to play with.” (CR/Canvas)

Week 2

Jan. 16: Prehistory of *ningyō*. Discussion #1 due

Readings for Jan. 16:

- Pate, *Ningyō*, beginning of chapter on Hina, pp. 82-94.
- Jane Marie Law, *Puppets of Nostalgia*, pp. 34-44. (CR)
- Doi Takashi, “Dogu: Representing the Body in the Jomon Archipelago,” in *The Power of Dogu: Ceramic Figures from Ancient Japan*, British Museum exhibition catalogue, pp. 40-58.
- Excerpts from the *Nihongi* (Japanese Chronicle, early 700s) and the *Engi-shiki* (book of religious & legal regulations compiled in the early 900s). (Canvas)

Jan. 18: Dolls in Heian literature.

Readings:

- Excerpts from *The Pillow Book* of Sei Shonagon and Lady Murasaki, *Tale of Genji*. (CR/Canvas)
- William Elliot Griffis on Japanese purification rituals. (Canvas)

Week 3

Jan. 23: Daruma.

Jan. 25: Moving dolls as social media and entertainment.

Readings for Jan. 25:

- Pate, *Ningyō*, "Ningyō in the theater," pp. 222-265.
- Pate, *Entertaining the Gods and Man*, pp. 11-48. (CR; book available on CR)
- Timon Screech, *Lens within the Heart: Western Scientific Gaze...*, "Mechanics and Motion," pp. 61-93. (CR)
- Video: contemporary Karakuri ningyo.
- Video: . The opening of Takeshi Kitano's 2002 film *Dolls* (the title is in English).

Week 4

Jan. 30: Human figures in religious contexts Discussion #2 due

Reading: Graham, "Depictions of Popular Deities and Spiritual Concerns." (Canvas) and "From Icon to Art" (CR).

Feb. 1: Saga and Gosho Ningyō

Readings for Feb. 1:

- Pate, *Ningyō*, "Gosho-ningyō: Palace Dolls and Auspicious Wishes," pp. 18-79.
- Pate, "Big, Fat, Round, Large: *Gosho-ningyō* Palace Dolls of Japan," *Antique Doll Collector*, June 2008, Vol 11, No. 5. (Canvas)

Week 5

Feb. 6: Meet in 1317 Turlington to set up a hina doll display.

View for Feb. 8: excerpt from Akira Kurosawa's film, "Dreams." (via Canvas)

Feb. 8: The hina doll display in the Edo and Meiji periods.

Readings for Feb. 8:

- Pate, *Ningyō*, pp. 94-127.
- Miyazaki, "The Development of the Doll Festival as Seen in Paintings" (CR)

Week 6

Feb. 13: Types of hina.

Feb. 15: In-class test. Choice of dolls for a short paper (bring a camera).

Week 7

Feb. 20: Warrior dolls and the use of dolls on May 5.

Readings for Feb. 20:

- Pate, *Ningyō*, pp. 130-173.
- Pate, *Bad Boys of the Boy's Day Display*. (Canvas)

Feb. 22: Costume and display dolls.

Reading for Feb. 22: Pate, *Ningyô*, pp. 176-219.

Week 8

Feb. 27: Kokeshi and other folk toys.

Readings for Feb. 27:

- Pate, *Ningyô*, pp. 219;
- Pate, “Kokeshi: History, Culture, Meaning,” in Morikami Museum exhibition catalog, *Wood Be Kindred Spirits: The Kokeshi of Robert J. Brokop*, pp. 10-15.
- Pate, “Kokeshi: The Language of Sameness,” in *Japanese Dolls*, pp. 168-175.

March 1: Ichimatsu. Short paper due

Spring Break: Mr. Pate will be speaking at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fl., to discuss the large ichimatsu doll (one of the original 58 Friendship Dolls) they recently acquired, on March 3, the first Saturday of Break Week, and also the 2018 Doll Festival. If you plan to be in the area, consider attending.

Week 9

March 13: Late Edo-early Meiji transition. Choice of final topic due

Reading for March 13: Pate, “Ningyô and Political Theater,” Chapter 6, *Entertaining the Gods and Man*, pp. 103-119. (CR)

March 15: William Elliot Griffis and Japanese doll culture.

Readings for March 15 (all on Canvas):

- Griffis, “Games and Sports of Japanese Children.”
- Griffis, “Feast of Dolls” and “Feast of Flags.”
- Shoaf, “Girls’ Day for Ume.”

Week 10

March 20: Women’s views of the hina matsuri.

Readings for March 20 (all on Canvas):

- Mary Frazer, excerpts from *Letters from Japan*.
- Alice Mabel Bacon, excerpts from *A Japanese Interior* and *Japanese Women and Girls*.
- Marie Stopes, excerpt from *A Journal from Japan*

March 22: “Bad boys” in the prewar era.

Readings for March 22:

- Klaus Antoni, “Momotaro (The Peach Boy) and the Spirit of Japan: Concerning the Function of Fairy Tale in Japanese Nationalism of the Early Showa Age, in *Asian Folklore Studies*, Vol. 50. No. 1 (1991) pp. 155-188. (CR)
- Proctor, *Tale of a Lucky Dog* (1931); Strack, *Sword and Iris* (1937):. Japanese dolls and militarism for American children. (Canvas)

Week 11

March 27: Marrying a Japanese Doll

Readings for March 29 (See Canvas for links):

- Pierre Loti, excerpts from *Madame Chrysanthemum*.
- John Luther Long, *Madame Butterfly*.
- Clive Holland, excerpts from *My Japanese Wife*.

March 29: In-class test. Examination of late 19th and early 20th century children's books and materials.

Week 12

April 3: Japanese dolls on the Western toyshelf

Readings for April 3:

- Shoaf, "Queer Dress and Biased Eyes." (Canvas)
- American and British children's literature, poems and chapters. (Canvas)

April 5: Hananuma Masakichi and Ripley's *Believe It or Not*

Readings for March 29 (all on Canvas):

- "Popular Performing Arts from Edo to Meiji," in Nishiyama Matsunosuke, *Edo Culture: Daily Life and Diversions in Urban Japan, 1600-1868*, pp. 228-250.
- Andrew L. Markus, "The Carnival of Edo: Misemono Spectacles from Contemporary Accounts in *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 2 (December 1985) pp. 499-541.

Week 13

April 10: Friendship Doll Exchange of 1927

Reading for April 10: Rui Kohiyama, "To Clear up a Cloud Hanging on the Pacific Ocean."

April 12: The Torei Ningyo [Short paper due](#)

Readings tba

Week 14

April 17: Postwar nostalgia, American and Japanese

April 19: Japanese doll collectors.

Readings tba

Week 15

April 24: summing up.