

JPN 4930 MONSTERS AND HORROR IN JAPAN
Spring 2019 – MWF 4th period, 10:40 – 11:30 am, MAT 0117

Instructor: Matthieu Felt (mfelt@ufl.edu)

Office Hours: MW 2-4, Pugh 322

This course will survey the varieties and functions of monsters and horror in premodern and modern Japan, along with some Western examples.

The required texts below are available at the campus bookstore. All other readings will be provided via PDF on the course website. Students are expected to complete the reading assignment for each class **BEFORE** the class begins.

Required Textbooks

- Ueda Akinari, *Tales of Moonlight and Rain*, trans. Anthony H. Chambers (Columbia University Press, 2007)
- Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, *Kappa*, trans. Geoffrey Bownas (Peter Owen, 1970)

Attendance and Participation – 20%

This is primarily a discussion-based course and as such student participation is critical for its success. Active participation will be evaluated on attendance, participation in class discussion, and demonstration of reading completion.

Postings – 20%

Eleven postings have been assigned over the course of the semester (refer to the schedule below). These should be submitted to the “Discussions” section of the course website. At least one, if not more, suggested topics will be posted, but you may write on whatever you wish. Postings should be one paragraph in length (about 200 words) and reflect a thoughtful engagement with the assigned reading. The posting is due by 12:01 AM on the date indicated on the syllabus, essentially midnight before class. **One posting may be skipped.**

Presentation – 10%

Once in the semester, individuals or a pair will summarize an outside article or book chapter for the rest of the class. The summary should take 10-15 minutes and provide a rundown of the primary points and argument stated by the article. A short handout or PPT to keep things organized is recommended. The presentation schedule is provided at the end of this syllabus and will be adjusted by the instructor as needed depending on the course size.

Mid-term Project – 10%

Choose one of the three provided “Grass books” (nineteenth-century Japanese visual novels) and create a plot for the story, including dialogue for the creatures. Students who can read Japanese should refrain from simply translating the original. **Due March 22.**

Mid-term Paper – 15%

900-1000 words. Compare two figures we have examined up to now in the course. **Due April 01 at 12:01 AM.**

Final Project – 25%

Create your own monster. Due April 30 at midnight.

Part 1 (presentation): A depiction of your monster. Media should be settled in advance with the instructor but could include, websites, short stories, rhetorical essays, video games, physical sculptures, etc. As a basic guideline, written submissions need be no longer than 5-6 pages.

Part 2 (1200-1400 words): A critical analysis of what you created in the first part, drawing upon the themes and materials we have discussed over the course of the semester.

Final grades will be assigned according to the percentages below:

A	93% and above	A-	90% and above		
B +	87% and above	B	83% and above	B-	80% and above
C+	77% and above	C	73% and above	C-	70% and above
D	67% and above	D	63% and above	D-	60% and above
F	Less than 60%				

Academic Honesty

Please familiarize yourself with the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>

Material copied verbatim should be placed in quotation marks and cited appropriately, but this also applies to material that has been paraphrased or summarized. **You** are responsible for familiarizing yourself with what constitutes plagiarism.

Special Accommodations, Sports, etc.

Please notify the instructor about any concerns regarding submission of assignments. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office.

COURSE SCHEDULE

DATE	THEME	READING
WEEK 1		
Jan. 07	Course Introduction	(none)
Jan. 09	Introducing Monsters	Jeffrey Jerome Cohen "Monster Culture (Seven Theses)," 3-25, Jason Zinoman, "The Critique of Pure Horror," https://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/17/opinion/sunday/17gray.html
Jan. 11	Monstrous Races, Travelers, and Other Worlds	<i>Nihon shoki</i> , Yamato Takeru narrative (1-11), <i>Tale of the Dirt Spider</i> (23-30), Tsuchigumo zōshi PDF (browse images)
WEEK 2		
Jan. 14		John Friedman, <i>The Monstrous Races in Medieval Art and Thought</i> (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1981), 1-36.
Jan. 16		Jonathan Swift, <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> , 163-184 <i>The Classic of Mountains and Seas</i> , 109-130
Jan. 18	NO CLASS *POSTING DUE*	Mary Bane Campbell, "The Fabulous East: 'Wonder Books' and Grotesque Facts" (47-86)
WEEK 3		
Jan. 23		Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, <i>Kappa</i> 45-92
Jan. 25*	*POSTING DUE*	Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, <i>Kappa</i> 93-141
WEEK 4		
	Journeys to Hell	
Jan. 28		Dante Alighieri, <i>The Inferno of Dante</i> , 181-219
Jan. 30*		Genshin, "Stories About Hell" (27-46)
Feb. 01	*POSTING DUE*	Medieval Japanese Hell Screens (browse images) <i>Jigoku</i> (dir. Nakagawa Nobuo, 1960, 100 minutes)
WEEK 5		
	Possession	
Feb. 04		<i>The Tale of Genji</i> , (55-80)
Feb .06*		Janet Goff, "Plays about Rokujo" (125-149)
Feb. 08*	*POSTING DUE*	Mishima Yukio, "The Lady Aoi," (145-171)
WEEK 6		
	Female Desire	
Feb. 11*		"How a Monk of the Dojoji in the Province of Kii Copied the Lotus Sutra and Brought Salvation to Serpents," 93-96, Nobumitsu, "Dojoji," 238-251, "A Maiden at Dojoji," 506-524.
Feb. 13		Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i> , "A Serpent's Lust," (155-185).
Feb. 15*	*POSTING DUE*	Takashi Miike, <i>Audition</i> (1999, 113 min.)
WEEK 7		
	Witches	

Feb. 18		Zeami, "Yamamba," 207-225, "The Woman Who Eats Nothing," 27-45.
Feb. 20*		Izumi Kyōka, <i>The Saint of Mt. Kōya</i> , 21-72.
Feb. 22	*POSTING DUE*	Shindo Kaneto, <i>Onibaba</i> (1964, 102 min.)
WEEK 8	Ghost Stories	
Feb. 25		Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i> , "Shiramine," "The Chrysanthemum House," (51-90)
Feb. 27		Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i> , "The Reed-Choked House," "The Carp of My Dreams" (91-120)
Mar. 01*	*POSTING DUE*	Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i> , "The Owl of the Three Jewels," "The Kibitsu Cauldron" (121-154)
SPRING BREAK		
WEEK 9	Family Drama	
Mar. 11		Shiraishi Kōji, <i>Carved</i> (2007, 90 min.)
Mar. 13		Nakata Hideo, <i>Dark Water</i> (2002, 101 min.)
Mar. 15*	*POSTING DUE*	Shimizu Takashi, <i>Juon: The Grudge</i> (2002, 92 min.)
WEEK 10	Freaks	
Mar. 18*		Michel de Montaigne, "Of a Monstrous Child," "Of Cripples," 538-539, 784-792, Rosemarie Garland Thomson, "Introduction: From Wonder to Error--A Genealogy of Freak Discourse" (1-19)
Mar. 20*		Andrew L. Markus, "The Carnival of Edo: Misemono Spectacles from Contemporary Accounts" (499-541)
Mar. 22	NO CLASS	Adam Kabat, ed., Kitao Masami, "Bakemono chakutocho" (29-48); Jippensha Ikku, "Bakemono hitotosegusa" (53-82); Jippensha Ikku, "Tanomi ari bakumono no majiwari" (121-140)
WEEK 11	Transformation	
Mar. 25*		Franz Kafka, <i>Metamorphosis</i> (3-42)
Mar. 27*		Tsukamoto Shinya, <i>Testsuo the Iron Man</i> (1989, 67 min.)
Mar. 29	Immortals and Zombies	Dazai Osamu, "The Mermaid and the Samurai," (61-81), Harriet Ritvo, "The Plausible Impossible," (175-187)
WEEK 12		
Apr. 01		Takahashi, Rumiko, "A Mermaid Never Smiles," "Mermaid Forest," (3-69, 155-256)
Apr. 03		Junji Itō, <i>Tomie</i> (1-116)
Apr. 05*	*POSTING DUE*	Fujiwara Tokuro, <i>Sweet Home</i> (1989) https://www.retrogames.cz/play_384-NES.php
WEEK 13		
Apr. 08	Gothic Fiction	Edgar Allen Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Fall of the House of Usher," (available online through Smathers Library)
Apr. 10		Edogawa Rampo, "The Stalker in the Attic," (43-80)

Apr. 12*	*POSTING DUE*	Edogawa Rampo, "Doctor Mera's Mysterious Crimes," "The Dancing Dwarf" (101-134)
WEEK 14	Global Monsters	
Apr. 15		<i>Gojira</i> [Japanese film]
Apr. 17*		Chon A Noriega, "Godzilla and the Japanese Nightmare: When Them! Is U.S.," (54-74)
Apr. 19*	*POSTING DUE*	<i>Godzilla, King of the Monsters</i> [U.S. film]
WEEK 15		
Apr. 22	Millennial Anxieties	Fukasaku Kinji, <i>Battle Royale</i> (2000, 114 min.)
Apr. 23*		Kurosawa Kiyoshi, <i>Pulse</i> (2001, 119 min.)

PRESENTATION LIST

January 25

Arnold Davidson, "The Horror of Monsters," in *The Boundaries of Humanity: Humans, Animals, Machines*, ed. James J. Sheehan and Morton Sosna (Berkeley: U of California P, 1991), 36-65.

January 30

Barbara Ruch, "Coping with Death: Paradigms of Heaven and Hell and the Six Realms in Early Literature and Painting," in *Flowing Traces: Buddhism in the Literary and Visual Arts of Japan*, ed. James H. Sanford, William R. LaFleur, and Masatoshi Nagatomi (Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1992), 93-130.

February 06

Bargen, Doris G. *A Woman's Weapon: Spirit Possession in The Tale of Genji*. Honolulu: U of Hawai'i P, 1997. xv-xx ("Introduction"), 1-27 (from Ch. 1, "Enter mono no ke: Spirit Possession in Cultural Context"), 245-250 ("Exit mono no ke: Spirit Possession in The Tale of Genji").

February 08

Barbara Creed, "Woman as Possessed Monster," in *The Monstrous Feminine: Film, Feminism, Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 1993), 32-42.

February 11

Susan Klein, "When the Moon Strikes the Bell: Desire and Enlightenment in the Noh Play Dojoji," *Journal of Japanese Studies* 7:2 (1991), 291-322.

February 15

Carol Clover, "Her Body, Himself," in *Men, Women, and Chainsaws: Gender in the Modern Horror Film* (Princeton, 1992).

February 20

Nina Cornyetz, "Speculum," "Leaky Archetypes," in *Dangerous Women, Deadly Words: Phallic Fantasy and Modernity in Three Japanese Writers* (Stanford, 1999), 21-44.

March 01

Anthony M. Chambers, "Introduction," *Tales of Moonlight and Rain* (Columbia University Press, 2007), 1-37.

March 15

Julia Kristeva, "From Filth to Defilement," in *Powers of Horror: An Essay in Abjection* (Columbia UP, 1982), 56-89

March 18

Lawrence Kritzman, "Representing the Monster: Cognitions, Cripples, and Other Limp Parts in Montaigne's 'Des Boyteux,'" in *Monster Theory: Reading Culture* (University of Minnesota Press, 1996), 168-182.

Bernd Renner, "A Monstrous Body of Writing?: Irregularity and the Implicit Unity of Montaigne's 'Des boyteux,'" *French Forum* 29.1 (2004), 1-20.

March 20

Figal, Gerald, "Bakumatsu bakemono," in *Civilization and Monsters: Spirits of Modernity in Meiji Japan*. Durham, NC: Duke UP, 1999. 21-37

March 20

Paul Semonin, "Monsters in the Marketplace: The Exhibition of Human Oddities in Early Modern England" (69-81)

March 25

Eric Santner, "The Writing of Abjection," in *The Metamorphosis: Translation, Backgrounds and Contexts, Criticism*, ed. Stanley Corngold (Norton, 1996), 195-210.

March 27

"Metal Morphosis: Post-Industrial Crisis and the Tormented Body in the *Tetsuo* Films," in *Japanese Horror Cinema* (Hawai'i, 2005), 95-106.

April 05

Peter Tieryas, "The NES Game that Inspired Resident Evil," <https://kotaku.com/the-nes-game-that-inspired-resident-evil-1687040111> (2.23.2015)

Allistair Pinsof, "It Came from Japan! Sweet Home," <https://www.destructoid.com/it-came-from-japan-sweet-home-213628.phtml> (10.13.2011)

April 12

Satoru Saito, "Detecting the Unconscious: Edogawa Rampo and the Emergence of the Japanese Detective (Harvard University Asia Center, 2012), 235-276.

April 17

Napier, Susan. "Panic Sites: The Japanese Imagination of Disaster from Godzilla to Akira." In **Contemporary Japan and Popular Culture**, ed. John Whittier Treat. Honolulu: U of Hawai'i P, 1996. 235-262.

April 19

Skal, David J. **Screams of Reason: Mad Science and Modern Culture**. New York: Norton, 1998. Ch. 4 ("A Bombs, B Pictures, and C Cups"; 166- 194).

April 23

Harraway, Donna J. "The Promises of Monsters: A Regenerative Politics for Inappropriate/d Others." In **Cultural Studies**, ed. Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson, and Paula A. Treichler. New York: Routledge, 1992. 295- 337