

JPN 3521 MONSTERS AND HORROR IN JAPAN
Fall 2024 – T 11:45-1:40; R 12:50-1:40, LIT 0127

Instructor: Matthieu Felt (mfelt@ufl.edu)
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hours

Office Hours*: TR 8-10AM, Pugh 322, or by appointment
*please let me know if you plan to come to office hours

Course Description

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

Required Textbooks

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.

- Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, *Kappa* (tr. Lisa Hofmann-Kuroda and Allison Markin Powell (New Directions, 2023). ISBN: 9780811232166
- Ueda Akinari, *Tales of Moonlight and Rain*, tr. Anthony Chambers (Columbia University Press, 2008). ISBN: 9780231139137
 - We use this for Perusall assignments so buy it there
- Edogawa Rampo, *The Edogawa Rampo Reader*, tr. Seth Jacobowitz (Kurodahan, 2008). ISBN: 9784902075250

Course Delivery

This course is a traditional face-to-face class.

Graded Work

Postings – 25% of grade

Fourteen postings have been assigned over the course of the semester (refer to the schedule below). One can be dropped/skipped. These should be submitted to the “Discussions” section of the course website. Postings should be one paragraph in length (about 100 words) and reflect a thoughtful engagement with the assigned reading. Postings are due at 8AM on Thursday.

Please note that writing longer postings does not guarantee any extra points. Late postings will be deducted one point per day from the due date. Postings will be graded on a five-point scale as follows:

0 - No posting submitted.

1 - Posting is “very poor,” i.e., extremely short and of low quality

2 – Posting has missed the main points of the reading/is too short/ is poorly written

3 – Posting is acceptable. Demonstrates some understanding of some of the reading, but also major misunderstandings with unclear writing.

4 – Posting is good. Addresses the main points of the text and expresses them reasonably well.

5 - Posting is excellent. Understands the main points of the text, addresses the topic thoughtfully, and expresses its points eloquently.

Annotation – 15% of grade

7 PDF annotations are due over the semester, completed using Perusall in the course website.

The scoring settings for each assignment are as follows:

30% Comment Content. Full credit for 4 high-quality responses, deduction if bunched

20% Opening Assignment. Full credit for opening the assignment 1 time

20% Reading to the End. Full credit for accessing each page of the document

20% Active Engagement Time. Full credit for 30 minutes of engagement

30% Getting Responses. Full credit for 2 comments that elicit responses

30% Upvoting. Full credit for giving 5 upvotes or receiving 5 upvotes

Quizzes – 15% of grade

6 reading quizzes will be given on the days identified on the syllabus below. Multiple choice, about 10 questions, testing completion and comprehension of the assigned reading/screening.

Presentation – 15% of grade

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. To sign up for a presentation and see the available articles and due dates, visit the “Presentation” page on the course website.

Final Project – 25% of grade

Create your own monster.

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.

Monster Peer Review – 5% of grade

Write 2 peer reviews on classmates’ monsters.

Grading Scale

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%				

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Class Attendance and Make-up Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in the course are consistent with university policies. See [UF Academic Regulations and Policies for more information regarding the University Attendance Policies](#).

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See the “[Get Started With the DRC](#)” webpage on the Disability Resource Center site. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Course Evaluations

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Materials and Supplies Fee

There are no additional fees for this course.

University Honor Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Wellness Resources

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit U Matter, We Care website to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit the Student Health Care Center website.

University Police Department: Visit UF Police Department website or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website.

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the GatorWell website or call 352-273-4450.

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support: Contact the UF Computing Help Desk at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources. Call 866-281-6309 or email ask@ufl.libanswers.com for more information.

Teaching Center: 1317 Turlington Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: Daytime (9:30am-3:30pm): 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138 | Evening (5:00pm-7:00pm): 1545 W University Avenue (Library West, Rm. 339). Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Academic Complaints: Office of the Ombuds; Visit the Complaint Portal webpage for more information.

Enrollment Management Complaints (Registrar, Financial Aid, Admissions): View the Student Complaint Procedure webpage for more information.

DATE	ASSIGNMENT	READING
WEEK 1 – Orientation		
Aug. 22	Course Introduction	
WEEK 2 – Monster Theory, Horror v. J-Horror		
Aug. 27	Annotation 1	Jeffrey Jerome Cohen “Monster Culture (Seven Theses),” 3-25 Jason Zinoman, “The Critique of Pure Horror” <i>Ringu</i> (Hideo Nakata, 1998, 96 min.)
Aug. 29	Posting 1	<i>Ring</i> (Gore Verbinski, 2002, 115 min.)
WEEK 3 – Journeys to Hell		
Sep. 03	Annotation 2	Dante Alighieri, <i>The Inferno of Dante</i> , 181-219 Genshin, “Stories About Hell,” 27-46
Sep. 05	Posting 2	<i>Jigoku</i> (Nakagawa Nobuo, 1960, 100 min.)
WEEK 4 – Possession		
Sep. 10	Annotation 3	Murasaki Shikibu, <i>The Tale of Genji</i> , 330-340 Janet Goff, “Plays about Rokujo,” 134-149 Mishima Yukio, “ <i>The Lady Aoi</i> ,” 145-171
Sep. 12	Posting 3	<i>Pulse</i> (Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 2001, 119 min.)
WEEK 5 – Other Worlds		
Sep. 17	Quiz 1	Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, <i>Kappa</i>
Sep. 19	Posting 4	Corpse Party (first five chapters) Alice in Borderland (first five chapters)
WEEK 6 – Female Desire		
Sep. 24	Annotation 4	“How a Monk of the Dojoji in the Province of Kii Copied the Lotus Sutra and Brought Salvation to Serpents,” 93-96 Nobumitsu, “Dojoji,” pp. 238-251 “A Maiden at Dojoji,” pp. 506-524 Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i> , “A Serpent’s Lust,” 155-185
Sep. 26	Posting 5	<i>Audition</i> (Takashi Miike, 1999, 113 min.)
WEEK 7 – Witches		
Oct. 01	Annotation 5	Zeami, <i>Yamamba</i> , 207-225 Izumi Kyōka, <i>The Saint of Mt. Kōya</i> , 21-72
Oct. 03	Posting 6	<i>Onibaba</i> (Shindo Kaneto, 1964, 102 min.)
WEEK 8 – Ghost Stories		

Oct. 08	Annotation 6	Ueda Akinari, <i>Tales of Moonlight and Rain</i> , "Shiramine," "The Chrysanthemum Vow," "The Reed-Choked House," "The Carp of my Dreams," "The Owl of the Three Jewels," "The Kibitsu Cauldron"
Oct. 10	Posting 7	<i>Ugetsu</i> (Mizoguchi Kenji, 1954, 96 min.)
WEEK 9 – Family Drama		
Oct. 15	Quiz 2	<i>Carved</i> (Shiraishi Kōji, 2007, 90 min.) <i>Juon: The Grudge</i> (Shimizu Takashi, 2002, 92 min.)
Oct. 17	Posting 8	<i>Dark Water</i> (Hideo Nakata, 2002, 101 min.)
WEEK 10 – Transformation		
Oct. 22	Quiz 3	Franz Kafka, <i>Metamorphosis</i> , 3-42 <i>Tetsuo the Iron Man</i> (Tsukamoto Shinya, 1989, 67 min.)
Oct. 24	Posting 9	<i>Tokyo Gore Police</i> (Yoshihiro Nishimura, 2008, 110 min)
WEEK 11 – Immortals		
Oct. 29	Annotation 7	Takahashi Rumiko, "A Mermaid Never Smiles," "Mermaid Forest," "Mermaid's Gaze" (3-69, 155-256, 3-104) Junji Itō, <i>Tomie</i> , 1-242
Oct. 31	Posting 10	<i>Sweet Home</i>
WEEK 12 – Gothic Horror		
Nov. 05	Quiz 4	Edgar Allen Poe, "Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Fall of the House of Usher" Edogawa Rampo, "The Stalker in the Attic," 43-80
Nov. 07	Posting 11	Edogawa Rampo, "Doctor Mera's Mysterious Crimes," "The Dancing Dwarf" pp. 101-134 "Human Chair"
WEEK 13 - Kaibutsu		
Nov. 12	Quiz 5	<i>Gojira</i> (Ishiro Honda, 1954, 96 min.) <i>Godzilla, King of the Monsters</i> (Ishida Honda and Terry Morse, 1956, 80 min.)
Nov. 14	Posting 12	<i>Godzilla Minus One</i> (Takashi Yamazaki, 2023, 125 min.)
WEEK 14 – 10's J-Horror		
Nov. 19	Quiz 6	<i>Creepy</i> (Kurosawa Kiyoshi, 2016, 130 min.)

Nov. 21 Posting 13

Tag (Sion Sono, 2015, 85 min.)

WEEK 15 – Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 16 – Contemporary J-Horror

Dec. 03 Posting 14

Immersion (subject to change)

Hitch Hike (subject to change)

Presentation Schedule

Aug. 29

Peijen Beth Tsai, "Horror Translation: From Nakata Hideo's Ringu to Gore Verbinski's the Ring," 1-40.

September 03

William Franke, "Dante's Deconstruction and Reconstruction of Prophetic Voice and Vision in the Malebolge (Inferno XVIII–XXIII)," pp. 111-121

September 03

Joseph Falvo, "The Irony of Deception in 'Malebolge': 'Inferno' XXI-XXIII, pp. 55-72

September 03

Rhodes, Robert F. "Imagining Hell: Genshin's Vision of the Buddhist Hells as Found in the 'Ōjōyōshū.'" *The Eastern Buddhist* 32, no. 1 (2000): 22–55.

September 05

Ruth Goldberg, "The Nightmare of Romantic Passion in Three Classic Japanese Horror Films," pp. 29-37

September 10

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").

September 10

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

Sep. 24

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.

Sep. 26

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

Oct. 01

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

Oct. 01

Meera Vishwanathan, "In Pursuit of the Yamamba: The Question of Female Resistance," pp. 239-261

Oct. 03

Adam Lowenstein, "Unmasking Hiroshima: Demons, Human Beings, and Shindo Kaneto's Onibaba," pp. 83-109

Oct. 08

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

Oct. 10

David Pacun, "Paths between the Spiritual and the Real: On the Intersection of Musical Style, Symmetry, and Cycle in Kenji Mizoguchi's Ugetsu," pp. 19-36

Oct. 10

Dennis Washburn, "Ghostwriters and Literary Haunts. Subordinating Ethics to Art in Ugetsu Monogatari," pp. 39-74

Oct. 15

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

Oct. 22

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

Oct. 22

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

Oct. 24

Linda Williams, "Film Bodies: Gender, Genre, and Excess," *Film Quarterly* Vol. 44, No. 4 (Summer, 1991), 2-13.

Oct. 29

Taylor, Tosha R. 2023. "Gendered Violence and the Abject Body in Junji Itō's Tomie." In *Critical Approaches to Horror Comic Books*, 1st ed., 78–88. Routledge.

Oct. 31

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)

Nov. 05

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

Nov. 05

John H. Tinneman, "House of Mirrors: Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher," pp. 159-172

Nov. 12

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 Press, 1996. 235-262.

Nov. 12

Chon A. Noriega, "Godzilla and the Japanese Nightmare: When Them! is U.S.," pp. 54-75

Nov. 14

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).

Nov. 19

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