

**JPN 3521      MONSTERS AND HORROR IN JAPAN**  
Spring 2021 – MWF 4th period, 10:40 – 11:30 am, FLI 0109

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Instructor: Matthieu Felt ([mfelt@ufl.edu](mailto:mfelt@ufl.edu))

Office Hours: TR 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*, tr. Anthony Chambers (Columbia University Press, 2008). ISBN: 9780231139137
- Edogawa Rampo, *The Edogawa Rampo Reader*, tr. Seth Jacobowitz (Kurodahan, 2008). ISBN: 9784902075250

**Course Delivery**

This course is a synchronous and hybrid traditional face-to-face and online class focused on the written and spoken exchange of ideas. Students will be engaged through class discussion with the instructors and with one another, as well as through weekly comments from the instructors and TA on their written work. Synchronous sessions are challenging and depend much on your active participation. To help you get the most out of our meetings, they will include lectures, discussions, and social and cooperative learning activities. **NOTE that ALL sections will be online during the first week of class.** Everyone (*both* the traditional and virtual classrooms) is expected to attend virtual class in person with the video turned on. All students in the traditional classroom must wear a mask at all times (along with the instructor/s), and all students in the traditional classroom should have a computer, a microphone, and earphones. For more on class etiquette in a ZOOM setting, see the “Netiquette Guide for Online Courses” file on the Getting Started page of the course website.

**Graded Work**

**Postings – 25% of grade**

Fourteen 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. Postings are due at 11:59 PM on Thursdays so that they can be used for class on Friday.

**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.

**Mid-term Project – 10% of grade**

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 20.**

**Peer Review – 10% of grade**

Do two peer reviews on classmates' Midterm Project. The reviews will be automatically assigned after you have turned the assignment in and the due date has passed. Each review should be around 200 words, with suggestions, positive feedback, and constructive criticism. Be nice to your classmates. Due **March 27**.

### **Mid-term Paper – 15% of grade**

900-1000 words. Compare two figures we have examined up to now in the course. Due **April 03**.

### **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.

**Due April 24.**

### **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/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

### **Class Attendance and Makeup Policy**

Class attendance is expected. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog as noted below:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Late work will receive a 10% deduction per 24-hour period that passes until it is submitted.

### **Accommodations**

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (<https://disability.ufl.edu>; 352-392-8565,) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

### **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.ua.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.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

### **Classroom Demeanor**

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of class time. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all. Note that all students in the traditional classroom setting must wear masks at all times, must maintain a safe distance from others, and must come to class with a working computer, earphones, and a microphone.

### **Materials and Supplies Fee**

There are no additional fees for this course.

### **University Honesty 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 Honor 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.

### **University Wellness Schedule**

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu> 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

### **Course Schedule and Assignments**

See course website for details.