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Office Hours: Wednesday 11:45-12:35 (or by appointment).

Course Description

JPT 3120 is an examination of modern Japanese literature, from the late nineteenth century to the present. The course will take an in-depth look at important authors and texts during this period. In addition to reading specific texts, students will develop the skills to analyze modern Japanese literature and conduct meaningful research on it. All readings are in English; no knowledge of Japanese is required.

Required Textbooks

The following books are available at the UF bookstore. All are required.

Kawabata, Yasunari. [*Snow Country*](#).
Mishima, Yukio. [*Confessions of a Mask*](#).
Murakami, Haruki. [*Dance Dance Dance: a Novel*](#).
Natsume, Sōseki. [*Kokoro: a Novel*](#).
Ōe, Kenzaburō. [*Nip the Buds, Shoot the Kids*](#).
Tanaka, Yasuo. [*Somehow, Crystal*](#).
Tanizaki, Jun'ichirō. [*Naomi*](#).
Yoshimoto, Banana. [*Kitchen*](#).

All other readings will be posted on Canvas (e-Learning).

Online Course Requirements

This is a synchronous online course. As such, it has additional requirements not found in normal UF courses. Students must have access to a computer with a webcam (not just a phone or tablet) and Google Chrome, and an internet connection fast and stable enough to accommodate video conferencing. Since participation in class discussion is essential, students should also have access to a space sufficiently quiet and private during class times to speak. Parents, siblings, roommates, etc. are **NOT** welcome to listen in surreptitiously; this to create a safe environment where all students feel free to speak their minds without others listening in, just like in a physical classroom. If you are working near housemates, please use headphones during class sessions to maintain the privacy of the environment.

Class Policies

Absences

There will be no makeups for missed exams without a valid, documented excuse (e.g., a doctor's note, jury summons, etc.). You are allowed three unexcused absences without question. After that, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 1% drop in your final grade. An unexcused absence will, of course, result in a zero for your class participation grade for that day.

Late Work

Essays are due at the assigned time and date. Late essays will be marked down 10% for every 24 hours late (i.e., if an essay is due at 10:59 P.M. on Monday, submissions between 11:00 P.M. Monday and 10:59 P.M. Tuesday will be marked down 10%, submissions between 11:00 P.M. Tuesday and 10:59 P.M. Wednesday will be marked down 20%, and so on).

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, either in the form of cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any proven instances may result in an automatic grade of "E" for the entire course and WILL result in referral to the Dean of Students Office.

Examine the UF honor code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>: particularly the following:

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."

VIOLATIONS OF THE STUDENT HONOR CODE.

(a) Plagiarism. A student shall not represent as the student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Quoting oral or written materials including but not limited to those found on the internet, whether published or unpublished, without proper attribution.
2. Submitting a document or assignment which in whole or in part is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment not authored by the student.

To avoid common issues remember: when in doubt, cite.

- Words taken verbatim from another source, whether a whole paragraph, a sentence, or part of a sentence, must be placed in quotes and cited. Changing a few words here and there does not make it your original work.
- If you take an idea from another source, you should acknowledge your borrowing in the text of the essay and provide a citation.

Accommodations

Students who need accommodations in class or on exams are warmly encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office. See <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/> for more info. You are welcome to visit me during office hours to discuss your needs, but note that I need authorization from the DSO to make accommodations.

Camera Policy

This is a synchronous online course which aims to foster robust class discussion in a virtual format and simulate the classroom experience as closely as possible. As such, this course requires student cameras to be on throughout each course session (in both the main class conference and in breakout rooms). Students with cameras off will be marked absent for the class session. Exceptions will be granted for exceptional circumstances.

Grading

Grades will be calculated with the following weights. See below for descriptions:

Lightning Essays: 15%
Class Participation: 10%
Secondary Reading Presentations: 15%
Exams: 30% (15% each)
Essays: 30% (15% each)

Assignments

Lightning Essays

Lightning essays are short (250 word) essays designed to be completed in one sitting. Although much shorter than a full essay, they are more than reflection or reaction papers and incorporate the mechanics of formal essay writing in a condensed setting. Rather than journaling your reaction or writing a reflection, in the lightning essay you will state a one-sentence point (or thesis) about one of the readings that you wish to prove, then persuade your reader that point is true with the rest of your essay. You must also include at least one direct quotation from the reading as evidence to support your argument (you do not have to provide a citation, but supply the page number for your quotation in parenthesis).

Example thesis: "Mori Ōgai's short story 'The Abe Family' seems to celebrate Japan's samurai, but actually critiques samurai values and questions whether they ever existed at all."

Note that the point you prove should not be evaluative; in other words, you should not try to evaluate a reading as good or bad. Instead you should try to develop your own ideas about or insights into the text. Although lightning essays can be written in a less formal tone than normal essays, they should still be grammatical, correctly spelled, and persuasive.

One lightning essay will be due most Fridays after class, as indicated on the class schedule. Each essay can be about any of the readings covered that week.

Lightning essays will be graded:

0 (0%): Not submitted, incomplete

1 (50%): Did not follow instructions (insufficient length, no thesis, no quotation, not persuasive, etc.)

2 (100%): Satisfactory (required length, states a thesis, persuades the thesis is true with a quotation for evidence, as described above)

Class Participation

In this type of class it is vital that you come to class prepared and participate in class discussions. To receive a full class participation grade you should come to class prepared to fully participate. That means engaging the assigned texts with active reading, taking notes or highlighting as necessary. If it is evident you have not done the reading or are not prepared to participate fully in the class you will receive a grade of zero for the day. (Hint: answering a question with “I dunno” or “I don’t remember reading that” tells me you are not prepared!) Remember, an unexcused absence automatically results in a zero for your participation grade for that day. See the [Absence Policy](#) and [Camera policy](#) above.

Essays

This is a Writing Requirement 6000 class, so you must complete 6,000 words of writing. 2,000 words will be accounted for by the Lightning Essays. You must also submit two formal essays, each 2,000 words, on the assigned due dates. These are persuasive essays that present a thesis about a text and defend it by citing evidence in the form of quotations from that text. At least two scholarly secondary sources are required for each. Scholarly sources are books from academic presses or articles from academic journals. Encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, personal websites, and organizational websites are not scholarly sources. Neither are unpublished theses or papers, although exceptions are possible. You should cite other scholars *making an argument that supports your argument*, not random or well-known facts. See the separate “Essay Guide” handout.

Use Chicago citation format.

One essay should be about a work of prewar literature, and the other should be about a work of postwar literature. There are no assigned topics. You should pick one of the class readings you wish to examine further and develop a thesis about it. Keep in mind, however, that the main grading criteria are a) is your thesis strong? and b) do you successfully persuade your reader of your thesis? You must prove a strong thesis that *analyzes* the text and uncovers something new about it.

If you are a major in LLC and want to combine these two essays into your qualifying essay, please let me know.

Grading Rubric

Essays are evaluated on four areas:

1. Thesis: Is it an original, strong provable point? Does the essay successfully persuade that it is true?
2. Organization: Does each paragraph contribute to proving the thesis? Does each paragraph have its own analytical point? Do paragraphs flow well?
3. Evidence: Does each paragraph include a piece of evidence? Is the evidence appropriate and help prove the paragraph's point? Does the essay use the required secondary sources? Are secondary sources used appropriately, as analysis that supports the essays' argument?
4. Mechanics: Grammar, spelling, and style.

A Essay

An A essay makes a strong, original, provable claim, argues for it logically, has well-organized paragraphs, uses strong and appropriate primary and secondary evidence, and has few mechanical problems.

B Essay

A B essay is similar to an A essay, but is somewhat lacking in one area above. For example: perhaps the thesis is strong, evidence is good and there are few mechanical problems, but paragraphs are not well structured and often lack a clear point. Or an essay that does areas 1-3 well but has many mechanical problems.

C Essay

A C essay is lacking in two of the areas above. A C essay might also be an essay that only superficially engages with the work of literature, i.e., an evaluative essay or an unoriginal thesis.

D Essay

A D essay is seriously deficient in at least three areas, or does not follow the assignment instructions.

E Essay

The E grade is reserved for essays that are not turned in, or which are plagiarized. Note that the point value of the E grade in this case is zero.

Secondary Reading Presentation

On some days there will be a secondary reading assigned, usually author biographies, which the class as a whole is not expected to read. If you sign up for a secondary reading presentation on a certain day,

your job is to read that day's secondary reading and deliver a 10-minute presentation on it to the class. Note that most of the readings will be too long for you to present everything they contain. Instead, you should absorb and synthesize the reading for the class, summarizing its important points or most vital information in a digestible form for your classmates. Make your classmates aware of all the important parts of the reading so they get the information without having to read it themselves. You should also prepare a simple visual aid (like a powerpoint) that summarizes the main points.

Exams

There will be a midterm and a final exam, taken with proctoring software during assigned times, closed book and closed notes. The final will be cumulative. The exams will test whether you have absorbed *lecture* content such as author details, critical terms, and textual themes. They will not test analytical ability.