

Instructor: Christopher Smith
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Office Hours: M 1-2pm, W 9:30-10:30am, or by appointment

Primary General Education Designation: Humanities (H) ([Area objectives available here](#))

Secondary General Education Designation: International (N) ([Area objectives available here](#))

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. Courses intended to satisfy the general education requirement cannot be taken S-U.

Course Description

JPW 4130 is a reading course designed for advanced students of Japanese. The goal of the class is for students to read and comprehend real Japanese literature that appears “in the wild” (i.e., not textbook passages designed specifically for certain reading levels). The goal is to both develop reading strategies, and to comprehend and discuss the content of the readings. The class will be conducted in both English and Japanese, and consist of close, collaborative readings of texts.

Class Philosophy

If you don't fail several times in this course, you're doing it wrong! It can be embarrassing to get a reading wrong in front of your classmates, but only by failing like this can we constructively and collaboratively work backwards to discover the source of a misunderstanding and correct it for next time. So our philosophy here is: we support failure!

Required Textbooks

There are no required textbooks. All readings will be handed out, posted to Canvas (e-Learning), or sourced from online repositories like Aozora Bunko (<http://www.aozora.gr.jp/>).

Assignments

Class Participation (10%)

To get full class participation credit you should come to class prepared, which means you have looked up and taken note of all new words, and have attempted to read/translate the day's text. (You don't have to have it 100% right, but you need to have attempted it. See the [Class Philosophy](#).) You also need to participate fully in the course, which includes conferring with classmates in group discussions and presenting your readings and interpretations when called on.

Quizzes (20%)

There will be a quiz every Monday on the material covered in the previous week's classes (if Monday is a holiday, the quiz will be on Wednesday). You will be tested on vocab, grammar, and reading comprehension. You should be able to *sight read* the material we have gone over together in class. Quizzes will be marked but not corrected, and you can correct your mistakes and resubmit quizzes to regain half the missed points. Quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class, and there will be no extra time for students who come in late. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped from the final grade.

Exams (35%)

There will be a midterm and a final exam, both taken during class, closed book, closed notes. Exams will be similar to quizzes, but in addition to texts we have already read in class there will be texts that are new (but which use similar vocab/grammar) in order to test your reading comprehension skills.

Harn Collaboration Project (15%)

The Harn Museum of Art has several items with Japanese texts that need to be translated into English for presentation. You will select and translate several short pieces from their collection (they will give us a limited selection of things they need translated to choose from) and translate them. Although you will be in charge of your own pieces, this is a collaborative project and there will be at least one workshop day in class where you can discuss your translations with myself and your classmates. The museum *may* then use your translations in a future exhibit, although this is not guaranteed and will depend on their scheduling.

(By participating in this course, you release the Harn to use your translations at their discretion)

Independent Translation Project (20%)

This will be an independent translation of a piece of Japanese literature that you select for yourself. There will be some workshop days in class designed to let you consult with your classmates about your translations.

Grading Scale

Grade	Percentage
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A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
E	0-59

A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>; <https://student.ufl.edu/minus/grades.html>

Class Schedule

The schedule of readings is highly dependent on the pace of the class, and will be adjusted to accommodate the average reading level / pace of the class. However, readings may include excerpts of:

- Natsume Sōseki – *Yume jūya*
- Murakami Haruki – “Tongari yaki no seisui”
- Murata Sayaka – *Konbini Ningen*
- Scott Fitzgerald – *The Great Gatsby* (trans. Murakami Haruki)
- Raymond Carver - *What We Talk About When We Talk About Love* (trans. Murakami Haruki)
- Wataya Risa – *Install*
- Shimizu Yoshinari – “Growing Down”
- Ōtsuka Eiji – *Monogatari shōhiron*

Class Policies

Class Policies

Attendance

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at:

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

You are allowed three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence greater than three will result in a 1% reduction in your final course grade.

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://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-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.

(e) 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. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

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.

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. 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.

UF Evaluations Process

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/>.

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 or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

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.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

Resources

If you have access to a specialized electronic dictionary, they can be very helpful for this course. If you do not, there are lots of free resources available:

Jim Breen's WWWJDIC

<http://www.edrdg.org/cgi-bin/wwwjdic/wwwjdic?1C>

A free J<->E dictionary with word search, kanji lookup by radical, and kanji look up by handwriting. Probably the most useful single resource.

Weblio

<http://ejje.weblio.jp/>

A free Japanese J<->E dictionary with word search. More detailed entries than above.

Japan Knowledge

<http://japanknowledge.com>

A commercial service accessible through the library; must be on campus or access through the VPN. A service that allows you to search dozens of dictionaries and encyclopedias at once, including pay J<->E dictionaries and encyclopedias, as well as Japanese-only dictionaries. Great for obscure terms you can't find elsewhere. (click on 法人契約で利用 then ログインする)

Installing Japanese IMEs

<https://www.tofugu.com/japanese/how-to-install-japanese-keyboard/>

If you haven't already done so, you should install the Japanese IME (input method editor) for your system. This allows you to type Japanese so that you can use dictionaries. Some IMEs even have a built-in kanji handwriting recognition system.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. **Understand** advanced grammatical structures, sentence structures, and vocabulary in Japanese. **(H/Content—assessed through class participation, Quizzes, exams, translations)**
2. **Identify, describe, and explain** advanced linguistic theories about the Japanese language and how myths of Japanese incomprehensibility impede precision reading. **(H/Content—assessed through class participation, quizzes, exams)**

2. **Analyze and evaluate** the history of literary reflection on Japan's changing modern sociopolitical structures, and how that reflection is also globally relevant. **(H&N/Critical Thinking – assessed through Class participation, translation projects)**

3. **Develop and present** persuasively their own ideas about texts and their own linguistic interpretations. **(H/Communication – assessed through class participation, translation projects)**

4. **Understand** the global political, social, and economic forces that operate in modern Japan and how those forces generate cultural criticism and literary expression, and that many of those same forces are present in our own culture. **(N/Content—assessed through class discussion, translation projects)**

5. **Analyze and evaluate** through literature how a different set of cultural practices, social systems, and religious beliefs produced a modern Japan with both vast differences with and similarities to students' own culture, which fully participates in modern globalization. **(N/Critical Thinking— assessed through class discussion, translation projects)**