

565:362 Japanese Popular Culture

Spring 2017

MW 1:10-2:30

Hardenbergh Hall Room B4

Instructor: Satoru Saito

Office Hours: MW 11:00am-12:50pm (Scott Hall 338)

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Course Description and Learning Goals

This course examines various facets of Japanese popular culture with two major objectives in mind. First, it seeks to cultivate a better understanding of Japanese grammar/expressions, in particular, the ability to express opinions and criticisms in Japanese. Second, it seeks to explore various methods and frameworks to analyze Japanese culture and its popular representations, such as manga, contemporary art, street fashion, and pop music. Given these objectives, the class will involve lessons and discussions in both Japanese and English and share time between language acquisition and cultural criticism.

This course satisfies the following Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals for EALAS with Japanese Concentration majors and Japanese minors. Majors will be able to demonstrate oral, reading, and written proficiency in the language and develop critical skills in analyzing and interpreting literary, historical, and cultural texts. Minors will be introduced to the cultural heritage of Japan through courses on literature, history, visual culture, language and linguistics and be able to communicate effectively (speaking and writing) in Japanese and will learn critical skills in analyzing and interpreting literary and cultural materials appropriate to the student's area of specialization.

See full statement of Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals at: <http://asianlanguages.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/learning-goals>

Requirements

2 short papers (2-3 pages in English) with Japanese summary (7.5% each)	15%
Midterm exam	20%
5 response papers in Japanese (4% each x 5)	20%
Final exam	20%
Presentation	10%
Presentation Report	10%
Class Performance and Attendance	5%

During the first half of the semester, students will be asked to write 2 short papers. The first paper will be on shōnen/shōjo manga. You will need to select a suitable manga for your paper on your own. The second will be on comparative media analysis on manga/anime/drama/novel. For this paper, you will use the materials from class. Each paper consists of two parts. The first part is the main body, 2-3 pages double-spaced, in English. The second part is the summary of your paper, ½ to ¾ of a page double-spaced, in Japanese. Students will be asked to present their findings to the class in Japanese on the date that the paper is due.

During the second half of the semester, students will be asked to write 5 response papers based on the presentations. The paper should be an analytical paper, around 1 page double-spaced, in Japanese. Students will be asked to present their findings to the class in Japanese on the date that the paper is due.

At the end of the semester, students will be asked to give a presentation on an aspect of Japanese popular culture, using the frameworks discussed in class. The presentation should be around 15 minutes in length in English. The presentation should not be purely informational and should provide a critical analysis of the subject matter. The students will also be required to write an analytical paper in English based on the presentation topic. This paper is due on the day of the final exam.

Note on Academic Integrity: You are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. For details, please see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. I will also be glad to discuss with you any concerns or questions you have on this issue.

Note on absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Required Texts

There are no required textbooks for purchase. Course materials as well as handouts will be uploaded on sakai website.

Schedule (subject to change)

1/18 Introduction

UNIT I: Japanese Popular Culture Media Forms

A. The World of Manga: Shōnen vs. Shōjo

- 1/23 Manga as a Media Form: *Yotsuba-to*
- 1/25 Shōnen manga: *Naruto & Tenisu no ôjisama*
- 1/30 Shōnen manga: *Naruto & Tenisu no ôjisama*
- 2/1 Shōjo manga: *Oishii kankei & Otomen*
- 2/6 Shōjo manga: *Oishii kankei & Otomen*
- 2/8 SHORT PAPER #1 DUE; discussion

B. Manga vs. Anime, Drama & the Novel

- 2/13 Read Chatman article; Anime: *Cowboy Bebop*
- 2/15 Manga & Anime: *Nodame kantaabire*
- 2/20 Manga & Drama: *Bambino*; Drama: *Nodame kantaabire*
- 2/22 Novel & Anime: *Kino no tabi*
- 2/27 Novel & Anime: *Kino no tabi*, cont'd
- 3/1 SHORT PAPER #2 DUE; discussion
- 3/6 Discussion cont'd; grammar review
- 3/8 **Midterm Exam**

3/13 Spring Break

3/15 Spring Break

UNIT II: Popular Representations and Phenomena of Contemporary Japan

- 3/20 Cultural Overview
- 3/22 Cultural Overview, cont'd
- 3/27 Response #1 due
- 3/29 Pop Music Presentation
- 4/3 Response #2 due
- 4/5 Street Fashion Presentation
- 4/10 Response #3 due
- 4/12 Pop Art Presentation
- 4/17 Response #4 due
- 4/19 Video Games and Internet Culture Presentation
- 4/24 Response #5 due
- 4/26 TV Commercials and Other Topics Presentation
- 5/1 Response #6 due

5/9 **Final Exam**; 12pm to 3pm; Presentation Reports due at the time of the exam