Fall 2016
565:361 Japanese Popular Culture
MW 4: 1:10pm-2:30pm (HH-B5)

Instructor: Satoru Saito
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Office Hours: MW 11:00am-12:50pm
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Course Description

This course considers various facets of Japanese popular culture with two primary objectives in mind. First, it examines Japanese popular culture through manga, anime, and television with a focus on the archetypal frameworks—such as notion of family, school, love, and humor—that inform these mediums. Second, the course, through its investigation of Japanese popular culture, seeks to develop the students’ Japanese-language abilities. In particular, the course will familiarize students with colloquial Japanese, gendered expressions, and Kansai dialect through reading and translating of primary materials. By doing so, the course will not only introduce students to new linguistic materials but also provide a review of previously acquired Japanese grammar. Given its two objectives, the course will involve lessons and discussions in both Japanese and English and share time between language acquisition and cultural criticism.

For EALAS majors, this course satisfies either the language or culture component of the major requirements.

Requirements

Grammar quiz: 5%
Test #1: 25% or 30%
Test #2: 25% or 30%
Presentation: 10%
Final essay (6-7 pages double-spaced in English): 20%
Vocabulary quizzes (best 6 out of 8 quizzes; no makeup): 5%
In-class performance (attendance and participation): 5%

Note on Academic Integrity: You are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. For more information, 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

The required text for this class is provided through Sakai.
October 24:  Skits from the variety show *Enta no Kamisama*
              *Vocabulary quiz #5

October 26:  *Enta no Kamisama*, cont’d; introduction to Kansai dialect

October 31:  Kansai dialect cont’d; Kariya Tetsu’s *Oishinbo*
              *Vocabulary quiz #6

November 2:  Kansai dialect cont’d; Hara Hidenori’s *Jasuto miito*

November 7:  Kansai dialect cont’d; Hashiguchi Takashi’s *Yakitate Japan!*

UNIT III  **Case Studies in Manga**

This unit will examine four contemporary manga, applying what we have learned in the
course of the semester, both culturally and linguistically.

November 9:  Takei Hiroyuki’s *Shaman King*
              *Vocabulary quiz #7

November 14: Morikawa Jōji’s *Hajime no Ippo*

November 16: Kubo Tite’s *Bleach*
              *Vocabulary quiz #8

November 21: Nakahara Aya’s *Lovely Complex*

November 23: NO CLASS; Thanksgiving

November 28: Review

November 30: **Test #2**

December 5:  In-class prep for presentation/final paper consultation (mandatory)

December 7:  Presentations

December 12: Presentations

December 14: Presentations

***FINAL PAPER due by noon on Wednesday, December 21 (please email me your papers
to ssaito@rei.rutgers.edu).***