01:565:241 “Japanese Literature in Translation”  
Rutgers University  
Fall 2012

Syllabus

Instructor

Professor Paul Schalow  
Office: Scott Hall Rm. 325, tel. (848) 932-6490  
Office Hours: Tues. & Thurs. 10:00-11:00 AM  
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Course Description

Tues. and Thurs. 2:15 – 3:35 PM in Hickman Hall Rm. 131, Douglass Campus.

The course consists of reading and discussion of major works of classical, medieval, and early modern Japanese literature, spanning the seventh to seventeenth centuries. Our focus will be to develop an understanding of literary texts, both poetry and prose, in relation to the social, political, and cultural contexts from which they emerged. These include the imperial court, Buddhist temples and warrior society, and the urban merchant-class. We pay special attention to the ongoing vitality of courtly traditions. All readings are in English translation.

Course Sakai site https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal/site/54e53c5c-162c-440b-a752-71ecaa37b500

Grading

Class participation (10%); response sheets, 23 worth 2% each (total 46%); oral report (4%); final paper (40%)

Required Texts (for purchase at Rutgers University-Barnes & Noble Bookstore or NJ Books)

Learning Goals

“Japanese Literature in Translation” 565:241 satisfies the following Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals for Japanese majors and minors:

*Majors* will be able to demonstrate substantial knowledge of Japanese literature, and culture and pursue advanced study and/or employment in a capacity requiring such cultural knowledge. *Minors* will be able to analyze and interpret texts and relate relevant issues to other areas in the humanities.

*(See full statement of Asian Languages and Cultures Departmental Learning Goals at http://sas.rutgers.edu/component/docman/doc_download/532-sas-learning-goals)*

Academic Integrity Policy

Students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity at all times. Violations include cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity.

If you ever have questions about academic integrity in the course, please talk to me or send me an email immediately with your concerns.


Attendance and Assignments Policy

Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss a class, please talk to me in advance or send me an e-mail (schalow@rci.rutgers.edu) immediately with the date and reason for your absence. You may also use the absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ and an email will automatically be sent to me.

In order to earn full points, one-page, typed Response Sheets (2% each) must be submitted in class on the day of our discussion of the assigned reading; late assignments automatically lose a point and will be accepted anytime during the semester up to Dec. 14, 2012. Only typed submissions are accepted.

If you ever have questions about my attendance or assignments policy, please talk to me or send me an email immediately with your concerns.
Class Schedule

4 Sept. Tues.

6 Sept. Thurs.
Response sheet #1
Lecture: Classical poetic forms.

11 Sept. Tues.
Response sheet #2
Lecture: Poetic sequences and prose contexts of classical court poetry.

13 Sept. Thurs.
Reading: McCullough, “Tales of Ise” pp. 38-69.
Response sheet #3
Lecture: The courtly hero—erotic adventure and male friendship.

18 Sept. Tues.
Response sheet #4
Lecture: The role of gender in courtly literary expression.

20 Sept. Thurs.
Response sheet #5
Lecture: Women’s self-expression in courtly literature.

Reading: Sei Shōnagon, The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon.
Response sheet #6
Lecture: The process of learning to write courtly fiction (monogatari).

27 Sept. Thurs.
Reading: The Tale of Genji, chaps. 42-46, pp. 783-868. (ON SAKAI)
Response sheet #7
Lecture: Patterns of substitution in the Tale of Genji.

2 Oct. Tues.
Reading: The Tale of Genji, chaps. 47-49, pp. 869-972. (ON SAKAI)
Response sheet #8
4 Oct. Thurs.
Reading: *The Tale of Genji*, chaps. 50-52, pp. 973-1074. (ON SAKAI)
Response sheet #9
Lecture: Buddhist themes in the *Tale of Genji*.

9 Oct. Tues.
Reading: *The Tale of Genji*, chaps. 53-54, pp. 1075-1120. (ON SAKAI)
Response sheet #10
Lecture: Beginnings and endings in the *Tale of Genji*.

Reading: McCullough, “Short Tales of Aristocratic Life” pp. 251-270.
Response sheet #11
Lecture: Post-Genji courtly fiction (*monogatari*).

16 Oct. Tues.
Response sheet #12
Lecture: *Tales of Times Now Past* and *A Collection of Tales from Uji*.

18 Oct. Thurs.
Response sheet #13
Lecture: Reviving the tradition of courtly fiction by women.

Reading: Carter, “One Hundred Poems by One Hundred Poets” pp. 203-238.
Response sheet #14
Lecture: Court poetry in the medieval age.

Response sheet #15
Lecture: Poetry as political capital in the medieval court.

Response sheet #16
Lecture: A Buddhist defense of writing.

1 Nov. Thurs.
Response sheet #17
Lecture: Courtly aesthetics in a Buddhist world.
6 Nov. Tues.
Reading: Tyler, “Ama” and “Atsumori” pp. 22-48.
Lecture: Introduction to Nō drama.

8 Nov. Thurs.
Video: Nō in performance.

13 Nov. Tues.
Oral reports on assigned plays.

15 Nov. Thurs.
Oral reports on assigned plays.

20 Nov. Tues. (following Thurs. schedule)
Response sheet #18
Lecture: Historical literature and the imperial court versus the military shogunate.

22 Nov. Thurs. [Thanksgiving Recess]

27 Nov. Tues.
Response sheet #19
Lecture: Chinese and Japanese court influences on military tales.

29 Nov. Thurs.
Response sheet #20
Lecture: Blending courtly literature and setsuwa in medieval short stories.

4 Dec. Tues.
Reading: Carter, “Three Poets at Minase” pp. 303-326.
Response sheet #21
Lecture: Linked verse in the medieval age.

6 Dec. Thurs.
Response sheet #22
Lecture: Matsuo Bashō, haiku poet.

11 Dec. Tues.
Reading: McCullough, “Journey of 1684” and “Narrow Road of the Interior” pp. 510-551.
Response sheet #23
Lecture: Travel as a spiritual pursuit.

14 Dec. Fri. Final paper due in Scott Hall Rm. 330 by 4:00 PM.