

Year/Semester	2025年度 1期
Day/Period	Thu.4Period
Classroom	
Course Title	Japan Studies 212 (Culture)
Course Subtitle	Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature
Instructor	Raymond Gordon Rees(レイモンド・ゴードン・リース)

Course Description	<p>This is a survey course on modern Japanese literature written between 1868 and the present. We will focus mainly on stories written in the the Meiji and Taisho eras (1868-1925). Students will read translated texts and develop skills in reading modern Japanese literary prose through the readings of short stories. The selected works will provide students with a good background knowledge of modern Japanese society, and also serve to introduce some of the significant historical events that occurred in Japan during this time.</p> <p>Course goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will be able to identify and describe major themes in modern Japanese literature.</li> <li>2. Students will become familiar with major Japanese authors in the Meiji and Taisho eras.</li> <li>3. Students will be able to place and evaluate modern Japanese literature in its social and historical contexts.</li> <li>4. Students will improve their ability to write a literary analysis and discuss the elements of a short story.</li> </ol>
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Syllabus	<p>This course will include a combination of lectures, student presentations, films and discussions based on the assigned readings. Google Classroom will be utilized to manage homework assignments and quizzes, and a website called Padlet may be used for sharing videos. In principle, this class will be taught face-to-face. Lectures will cover topics relevant to the assigned readings. During the lectures I will ask students to answer questions and make comments. Students need to prepare for class by reading all of the the assigned material. For most readings, reading comprehension questions and questions for class discussion will be assigned in advance. Before class, students should write out their responses to the questions. In addition to class discussion, small student-led discussion groups called "literary circles" will also be utilized to enhance reading comprehension and engagement with the text. All students will be responsible for making one PowerPoint presentation on an assigned topic during the semester.</p> <p>第1回 Guidance/course explanation Read and discuss article: Meiji and Taishō Japan: An Introductory Essay- p.1-7 Read-Textbook p. 95-100 - The Last Testament of Okitsu Yagoemon HW: Reading comprehension questions</p> <p>第2回 Read and discuss article: Mori Ogai- Pioneer of Modern Japanese Literature Read and discuss: Loyalty: A Samurai Right and Responsibility Read: The Boat on the River Takase HW: Reading comprehension questions</p> <p>第3回 Read article on Education/Learning Missions in the Meiji era Read and discuss article: Euthanasia in Japan Short reaction paper- The Boat on the River Takase Read: The Spider Thread HW: Read article on Akutagawa Ryunosuke Read-textbook p. 297-312- Hell Screen Reading comprehension questions</p> <p>第4回 Read article on "Jigoku" Watch- Hell Screen- Part 1 HW: Read- Textbook p. 313-326- Hell Screen Reading comprehension questions</p> <p>第5回 Watch- Hell Screen- Part 2 Discussion HW: Read Textbook p.156-169- The Smile of a Mountain Witch Reading comprehension questions</p>
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第6回  
 Read and discuss article on Lafcadio Hearn  
 Read and discuss article on the Tale of the Heike  
 Read- "Hoichi the Earless"- Lafcadio Hearn  
 HW: Watch- "Hoichi the Earless"

第7回  
 Student Presentations-The Meiji era  
 HW:  
 Read- Textbook p. 3-7- The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga  
 Reading comprehension questions

第8回  
 Read and discuss Meiji and Taishō Japan: An Introductory Essay- p.7-11  
 HW:  
 Read-Textbook p. 7-26- The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga  
 Reading comprehension questions

第9回  
 Reading and discussion on Junichiro Tanizaki  
 HW:  
 Read-Textbook- p.27-48- The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga  
 Reading comprehension questions

第10回  
 Reading and discussion on the Yokohama Bluff.  
 HW- Read p.49-64- The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga  
 HW- Reading comprehension questions

第11回  
 Student presentations- The Taisho era  
 HW- Read article on Yukio Mishima  
 HW- Read "Patriotism"- p. 120-128  
 Reading comprehension questions

第12回  
 Watch and discuss- Part 1- "2-2-6 Incident"  
 HW:  
 Movie content questions

第13回  
 Watch and discuss- Part 2- "2-2-6 Incident"  
 HW:  
 Movie content questions  
 Prepare for in-class writing assignment and quiz

第14回-  
 In class writing assignment- Literary analysis  
 Quiz: Meiji and Taishō Japan: An Introductory Essay- p.1-11

Evaluation Criteria	Class participation and discussion/ literary circle participation PowerPoint presentation (1) Homework/reading comprehension questions/quizzes Short reaction papers/literary analysis/literary circle written reflections	30% 25% 30% 15%
Textbooks	The Penguin Book of Japanese Short Stories Edited by Jay Rubin Penguin Classics 978-0-241-31190-5	