

01:565:241:01/01:195:396:01 Japanese Literature in Translation (JLIT)

Rutgers University, Fall 2022

Scott 101 MW 5:40-7pm

Syllabus

Instructor: Paul G. Schalow, Professor of Japanese Literature

Office hours: Wed. 4:00-5:00pm Scott 330

E-mail: schalow@rutgers.edu

Course Description: Japan is an interesting example of a pre-literate society that attained literacy through its encounter with a neighboring culture that had developed reading and writing on its own, in this case China. In this course, you'll learn about the process whereby elites in Japan gradually mastered Chinese literacy and eventually invented a way to read and write their native Japanese language through a centuries-long process of adapting Chinese script (characters) for their own use. You'll have a chance to read and discuss works of classical, medieval, and early modern Japanese literature, including the Ainu and Okinawan traditions, from the 6th to 18th centuries. You'll study various literary genres such as poetry, prose, drama, and oral literature. We will focus on the four major social, political, and cultural contexts from which Japan's literary texts emerged: (1) the imperial court, (2) Buddhist temples, (3) warrior society, and (4) the urban merchant-class. We'll pay special attention to the ongoing vitality of courtly traditions throughout the medieval and early-modern eras. All readings are in English translation.

Required Texts

- Helen H. McCullough, ed. *Classical Japanese Prose* (Stanford UP, 1990) ISBN 9780804719605
- Virginia Skord, tr. *Tales of Tears and Laughter: Short Fiction of Medieval Japan*. (University of Hawaii Press, 1991) ISBN 9780824815691
- Ihara Saikaku, *Five Women Who Loved Love* (Tuttle Books, 1956) ISBN 9780804801843

Learning Goals: 565:241 Japanese Literature in Translation satisfies the following Department of Asian Languages and Cultures *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 ALC Learning Goals at

http://sas.rutgers.edu/component/docman/doc_download/532-sas-learning-goals)

Canvas: Modules on the Canvas course site indicate when assignments are due and provide PDFs for all readings except those from our required texts. Canvas gradebook will show all your grades as assignments are completed; please check gradebook regularly and let me know if any discrepancies immediately.

Academic Integrity Policy: Students are required to follow the Rutgers Honor Code (academic integrity policy) at all times. Violations of the Honor Code will result in zero for the assignment and possible further actions. If you have questions about academic integrity, please check the *newly revised Academic Integrity Policy that took effect June 2, 2020*: <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/academic-integrity-policy/>

Attendance & Assignments Policy: Students are expected to attend every class and submit their daily discussion posts on time; if you must miss a class or need an extension on an assignment, please alert me and explain the reason at schalow@rutgers.edu; or, you may use the absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>. An email will automatically be sent to me.

Grading & Requirements

Daily discussion posts (20x2.5 pts=50%)

22 posts, drop 2 lowest scores

Leading discussion (5%)

Class presentation (5%)

Group media project (10%)

Final paper (30%)*

Total: 100%

Each student will be assigned to lead discussion once during the semester and do one class presentation on a story from *Tales of Tears and Laughter* (5% each).

*Final paper: 1,500-2,000 words; due Mon. Dec. 19

JLIT F22 Class Schedule—Professor Paul Schalow

Date	Classroom discussion	Lecture in class	Assignment for next class
Mod 1	Early courts (6th-9th c.)		
9/7 W	Introduction to course	Early literacy — <i>man'yō-gana</i>	PDF Carter, <i>Traditional Japanese Poetry</i> , 17-43
9/12 M	Poets of the early courts	<i>Man'yōshū</i>	PDF Konishi, <i>History of Japanese Lit</i> , Intro, 3-34
9/14 W	Japanese literature defined	Japanese poetic forms	PDF Carter, <i>Traditional Japanese Poetry</i> , 44-71
9/19 M	Anonymous poems from <i>Man'yōshū</i>	<i>Taketori monogatari</i> ; universal folklore	McCullough, <i>Tale of Bamboo Cutter</i> 27-37
9/21 W	Universal folklore themes	Kaguyahime in popular culture	PDF Konishi, <i>History of Japanese Lit</i> , Intro, 34-52
9/26 M	Yamato and non-Yamato literature	Oral literature, Ainu sagas — <i>yukar</i>	PDF Chiri, <i>Ainu Shin'yōshū</i>
9/28 W	Ainu sagas	Poem-Tales <i>Ise monogatari</i>	McCullough, <i>Tales of Ise</i> 38-69
Mod 2	Heian (9th-12th c.)		
10/3 M	<i>Ise monogatari</i> and the Narihira persona	<i>Tosa nikki</i> , <i>Kanbun/Wabun</i> dichotomy	McCullough, <i>A Tosa Journal</i> 73-102
10/5 W	Ki no Tsurayuki and gendered writing	Literary periodization	PDF Konishi, <i>History of Japanese Lit</i> , Intro, 52-77
10/10 M	Literary periods: Japan, Asia, the West	Women's writing <i>Kagerō nikki</i>	McCullough, <i>Gossamer Journal</i> 102-155
10/12 W	Lady Kagerō's world	Heian imperial court <i>Makura no sōshi</i>	McCullough, <i>Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon</i> 156-199
10/17 M	Sei Shōnagon's world	Learning to write fiction: <i>monogatari</i>	PDF Oba, <i>Without Beginning, Without End</i>
10/19 W	Women's writing	<i>Genji monogatari</i>	PDF Tyler, <i>The Tale of Genji</i> , chap. 1
10/24 M	<i>Genji</i> in popular culture	Post- <i>Genji</i> fiction	McCullough, <i>Short Tales of Aristocratic Life</i> 251-270
Mod 3	Medieval (13th-16th c.)		
10/26 W	Short fiction: challenging convention	<i>Towazugatari</i> , highborn woman's memoir	McCullough, <i>Confessions of Lady Nijō</i> , 290-339
10/31 M	Toward enlightenment	<i>Izayoi nikki</i> , highborn woman's poetic diary	McCullough, <i>Journal of the Sixteenth-Night Moon</i> , 340-376

11/2 W	Poetry as cultural patrimony	<i>Hōjō-ki</i> : seclusion from the world	McCullough, <i>Account of my Hermitage</i> , 379-392
11/7 M	Reclusion and enlightenment	Medieval short fiction, <i>otogi-zōshi</i>	Skord, <i>Tales of Tears and Laughter</i>
11/9 W	<i>Class presentations 1-6</i>		Skord, <i>Tales of Tears and Laughter</i>
11/14 M	<i>Class presentations 7-13</i>		Skord, <i>Tales of Tears and Laughter</i>
Mod 4	Edo (17th-19th c.)		
[11/16 W]	Saikaku – group media project	NO CLASS	Saikaku, <i>Five Women who Loved Love</i>
[11/21 M]	Saikaku – group media project	NO CLASS	Saikaku, <i>Five Women who Loved Love</i>
[11/23 W]	Fri. classes	NO CLASS	
11/28 M	Saikaku – group media project reports	Okinawan literature	PDF Sakihara, <i>Omoro sōshi</i>
11/30 W	Ryūkyū court life and concerns	Nō theater, spirit & celebratory plays	PDF Nō plays <i>Matsukaze, Lady Han</i>
12/5 M	Nō performance	Love suicide plays: Bunraku & Kabuki theater	PDF Chikamatsu, <i>Sonezaki shinjū</i>
12/7 W	Bunraku & Kabuki performance	<i>Haiku</i>	PDF Carter, <i>Bashō's haiku</i>
12/12 M	Haiku poetry	Bashō's travels	McCullough, <i>Travel Accounts by Bashō</i> 510-551
12/14 W	Travel as spiritual quest	Conclusion of course	Last day of classes
[12/19 M]	Final paper due		