

JAPA 403 Modern Japanese Literature and Religions – Christianity and Buddhism

School of Asian & European Languages & Cultures

Trimester 1+2/3 2008

30 Points

STAFF

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CLASS TIMES AND ROOMS

Lectures: Tues 1-3pm vZ710

The lecturer will be available for consultation during normal working hours.

Students are encouraged to watch the Japanese Programme noticeboard (7th floor VZ) for information on courses, programme changes, as well as Japanese Culture Club activities and other related information.

Students are required to attend 2 hours of lectures per week.

AIMS AND CONTENT OF COURSE

This course will examine Modern Japanese Literature written by Buddhist Writers as well as literature which deals with Buddhism as a main theme.

Preliminary Study

Students should know the brief history of modern Japanese literature since 1868 and should have read novels of representative authors such as Natsume Soseki, Mori Ogai, Akutagawa Ryunosuke, Kawabata Yasunari, Tanizaki Jun'ichiro, Mishima Yukio and Oe Kenzaburo in the original or translation before starting this course. (Please refer to Texts and Reference Books to find out the list of novels which students should read before the course).

Aims

The course will have three main aims, one is to read and examine literature written by Buddhist authors since the Meiji era. The second aim is to read and examine literature which deals with Buddhism as a main theme. The third aim is to improve students' language proficiency especially in reading and translating skills.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND GENERAL GUIDE TO STUDY

1. Students should become literate in both Japanese language and literature by reading novels in the original as much as possible.

2. Students should be able to understand and appreciate Japanese society and people in depth through reading literature.
3. Students' knowledge of religious aspects of Japanese people and society should be extended as they read novels which deal with Buddhism as the main theme.
4. Students, through reading literature, should be able to see that human nature is universal and people confront the same problems regardless of race, age and gender in countries in which they live.

Students are encouraged to use lecturers' and tutors' consultation hours.
The lecturers/tutors will be available to give advice on students' study.

Students are also encouraged to talk to native speakers about books they have read as discussing books is a favourite topic among Japanese. These discussions are also useful in improving students' communication skills in Japanese.

Reading other foreign literature will help students to gain a wider understanding of literature, especially 19, 20th Century French, Russian, German, English literatures which have influenced Japanese literature greatly or vice versa.

There are films based on literary works which will be available at the section library, lecturer's office and video shops. Students are encouraged to view these films.

TEXTS

List of preliminary reading novels which students should read before the course or by the end of the trimester break in July.

- Morris. I, *Modern Japanese Stories* (Tuttle)
- Shimazaki Toson "*The Broken Commandment* " (1906)
- Natsume Soseki "*Kokoro*" (1914)
- Akutagawa Ryunosuke "*Rashomon*" and other short stories (1915)
- Shiga Naoya "*A Dark Night's Passing*" (1937) or
- Kawabata Yasunari "*The Snow Country*" (1947)
- Oe Kenzaburo "*A Personal Matter*" (1969)
- Keen.D, *Modern Japanese Literature*, (Tuttle) 1957

Other books and handouts will be advised later.

TERMS REQUIREMENTS AND WORKLOAD

Students must attend at least 80% of all lectures.

In order to assess the final grade, students must submit all assignments by due dates, conduct two oral presentations and sit the final test.

Each student is required to spend at least 24 hours a week on this course including four class hours.

Students should consult dictionaries frequently in writing assignments, researching and preparing for the lectures. This is very time consuming but can't be skipped, so please do not hesitate to consult the lecturer and other teaching staff if you have any problems with your study.

ASSESSMENT

This course is internally assessed.

The deadlines for assignments and penalties for lateness, failure to meet word limit, etc. will be notified in each assignment.

If students are unable to sit the test on the day or complete the assignment by due date, due to unforeseen reasons, they must contact the lecturer as soon as possible. If ill, you must provide a medical certificate.

Detailed Assessments

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|----|-------------------------|--------|-----|
| 1. | Two assignments | First | 25% |
| | | Second | 25% |
| 2. | Final Written Test | | 25% |
| 3. | Final Oral Presentation | | 25% |

1-1 First assignment (Dokusho Kansobun - Impression of Books)

Students are required to read four novels in Modern Japanese literature written by Buddhist authors in either translation or original and write in Japanese about their brief plots, themes and students impression of novels.

Four novels will be assigned by the lecturer.

The length of Dokushokansobun for each story should be no less than 800 letters and no more than 1200 letters (three genkoyoshi) which should consist of a brief plot, theme and student's impression of the story. It is not necessary to write about its author but you may do so if you think it is important to describe the plot or your impression. The four novels don't have to be related or belong to the same genre or group.

If you are not sure what or how to write, please ask the lecturer for a sample and/or advice.

Deadline for the assignment will be 08 July.

1-2 Second assignment (Translation and Research Essay Assignment)

Students are required to research one Buddhist author of their choice and read her/his work as much as possible. They must translate one short story or a part of middle sized/long stories into English. The length of a story to be translated should be no less than 4000 letters (10 genkoyoshi) and no more than 5200 letters (13 genkoyoshi). The story they have chosen must not have been translated before. They should aim at a literary more than grammatical translation which will be assessed accordingly.

Students are also to write an introduction of the story and its author in no less than 1000 words in English. The introduction should contain the author's life and thoughts as well as a guide to readers about the story you have translated. This assignment should be presented typewritten, double spaced and on the front cover the name of the novel, its author and translator's name, followed by an introduction on the next page and then the translation.

Deadline for the assignment will be October 22 October.

2. Final Written Test (07 October) Duration 3 hours.

This test consists of:

- translation of passages into English. These passages are from the stories students have been read during the course at the lectures.
- answering questions in Japanese about stories and their authors which students have studied during the course at the lectures.
- answering questions in English on Modern Japanese Literature and religions which students have been studying during the course.
- Students are allowed to refer to Eiwa, Waei and Kanji dictionaries or e-dictionary.

4. Final Oral Presentation (22 October)

This is an oral presentation of the Second Written Assignment (research essay). Each student has 20 minutes to present the author and her/his work and thought, especially the story students have chosen for translation.

The presentation is followed by 10 minutes discussion with examiners.

The oral presentation should include:

- a) introduction of the author, her/his life and thought.
- b) a brief plot of the story you have translated.
- c) students' analysis or interpretation of the story.
- d) introduction of other major works the author wrote.

Students are encouraged to use visual aids such as power point, OHP, VTR, audio tapes and it is important to make the presentation lively and informative, and encourage audience and examiners to be involved.

More detailed information about the above tests and assignments, including method of assessment, will be given to the students at the lectures at least two months prior to the test dates or the deadline of the assignments.

PENALTIES

- a) If you are unable to sit the tests due to unforeseen reasons, you must contact the lecturer prior to the tests and if it is for a medical reason, you have to provide a medical certificate.
- b) If you miss the tests without giving prior warning, the mark of this test will be nil.
- c) If you are unable to submit your assignment on the due date, you must contact the lecturer before that date and if it is because of a medical reason, you have to provide a medical certificate. The deadline for an assignment will be notified in the assignment paper or in class.
- d) If you fail to submit your assignment on the due date without giving prior warning, the mark of this assignment will be nil.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In order to assess the final grade, students must submit all assignments by due dates, conduct two oral presentations and sit the final test.

Each student is required to spend at least 24 hours a week on this course including four class hours.

Students should consult dictionaries frequently in writing assignments, researching and preparing for the lectures. This is very time consuming but can't be skipped, so please do not hesitate to consult the lecturer and other teaching staff if you have any problems with your study.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND STUDENT EVALUATIONS

In the second week of lectures, staff will facilitate the election of a class representative. Student reps are a valuable means of communication between teaching staff and students. Each trimester student reps of SAELC courses will meet together with the Head of School. At the end of the course all students will be asked to fill out questionnaires prepared by the University's Teaching and Development Centre in order to evaluate individual lecturers' performance and/or the course as a whole.

GENERAL ADVICE

Contact Person:

Students with Disabilities

Dr Rick Millington vZ613 Phone 383 7852 Email: Rick.Millington@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Students

Dr Rick Millington vZ613 Phone 383 7852 Email: Rick.Millington@vuw.ac.nz

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS, POLICIES AND STATUTES

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the *Victoria University Calendar* available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Academic Grievances
- Student and Staff Conduct
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

