

JLT220 Japanese Modern Literature

3rd and 4th quarters, Sophomore

Instructor NAKAGAWA TOMOHIRO

Style of Class Lecture

Number of Credits 2

Day and Period Tuesday, period 4

Course Description

In this course, we aim to have the students acquire the basic knowledge needed for studying early modern Japanese literature and the basic methods for interpreting and criticizing this literature while teaching them to appreciate and understand it. In specific terms, we will take a broad look at the authors and major works of the Meiji (1868-1912), Taisho (1912-1925) and early Showa (1925 to World War II) periods, based on historical knowledge about early modern Japanese literature. While dealing with the specific works in terms of appreciation and criticism, students will deepen their understanding of the authors and works and, at the same time, think about the formation and development of early modern literature.

Course Objectives

To foster the students own appreciation for this literature while gaining an understanding of the background of this era and the characteristics of the authors

Prerequisites

None

Class Materials

None in particular, but if students are required to read anything in advance, it will be announced well ahead of time.

Course Method

Mostly in a lecture format

Evaluation/Assessment

Based on written exams. Extra points will be added based on the content of reaction papers to be written and handed in at each class session.

Grading

The base points will count for 30% at most.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Orientation, procedures, evaluation methods, reference materials

Week 2: Shiga Naoya's "At Kinosaki," definition of the "I novel."

Week 3: The Shirakaba School and its connection with fine art

Week 4: Continuation of Week 3, with emphasis on the artistic trends

Week 5: Historical novels and novels set in the Edo Period

Week 6: Akutagawa Ryunosuke's "A Murder of Enlightenment," literature of the *bunmei kaika* era.

Week 7: Kikuchi Kan's "Katachi," and Kikuchi's role in early modern literature

Week 8: Hayama Yoshiki's "Letter in a Cement Barrel," the realities of proletarian literature

Week 9: Abe Kobo's "The Flying Man," the relation between Abe's literature and visual media

Week 10: Studies in *haiga* (illustrated haiku): Nonoguchi Ryuho, Nishiyama Soin, etc.

Week 11: Studies in *haiga*: Matsuo Basho, Morikawa Kyoriku, etc.

Week 12: Studies in *haiga*: Masaoka Shiki, Takahama Kyoshi, etc.

Week 13: Modern poetry: Osada Hiroshi, Terayama Shuji, etc.

Week 14: Modern poetry: Yamamoto Yoko and others

Week 15: Exam

Preparation and Follow-up

Follow the instructor's instructions about any works or reference materials that you should finish reading before class.