

JAPAN'S POSTWAR THROUGH SHORT STORIES 2 credits
(Fall)

短編小説を通して日本の戦後を考える 2単位(秋学期)

Japan's Postwar Through Short Stories

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Course Description/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome:

In this class we will study a number of short stories depicting different aspects of the postwar period—roughly from 1945 until 1968. It is hoped that, by analyzing the individual stories, students will be able to form an opinion on their merits as works of literature, and also be afforded something of a insight into the postwar period as a whole: how it shaped Japanese society at the time and how that process of shaping still bears upon the present.

We will take one short story at a time. The texts will be made available to the class a week in advance on the Keio website, and all students will be expected to have read the relevant story before each class and to come prepared with comments and questions. All texts will be discussed on the basis of their English-language translations and the language of discussion will be English. However, the original Japanese texts will also be made available and native speakers of Japanese are particularly encouraged to use their knowledge of the original language to contribute to the discussion.

Texts will be studied in order of publication, which may not always coincide with the date in which the story is set.

Course Plan:

- 1 Introductory
- 2 Ishikawa Jun "Jesus of the ruins" (「焼跡のイエス」 石川淳著)
- 3 Sakaguchi Ango "One Woman and the War" (「続戦争と一人の女」 坂口安吾著)
- 4 Dazai Osamu "Villon's Wife" (「ヴィヨンの妻」 太宰治著)
- 5 Hayashi Fumiko. "Downtown" (「下町」 林芙美子著)
- 6 Agawa Hiroyuki "From Age to Age" (「年々歳々」 阿川弘之著)
- 7 Yasuoka Shōtarō "Prized Possessions" (「愛玩」 安岡章太郎著)
- 8 Ibuse Masuji "Lieutenant Look-east" (「遥拝隊長」 井伏鱒二著)
- 9 Kojima Nobuo "The American School" (「アメリカン・スクール」 小島信夫著)
- 10 Mishima Yukio "Three Million Yen" (「百萬円煎餅」 三島由紀夫著)
- 11 Nosaka Akiyuki "American Hijiki"/"American Alga" (「アメリカひじき」 野坂昭如著)
- 12 Kōno Taeko "Iron Fish" (「鉄の魚」 河野多恵子著)
- 13 Hayashi Kyōko "The Tin Can" (「空罐」 林京子著)

Other Reading each story carefully in preparation for the class discussion

Method of Evaluation:

Class Participation: I shall be keeping note of how often you attend and how often you make contributions to the class discussion (50%)

Plus Either

A Final Report (3,000-4000 words) (50%)

• This should conform to normal academic standards, including a list of works cited and consulted and showing evidence of independent research.

Or B Three short papers (1,000-1200 words each). (50%)

• Those who choose option B must submit one of the papers by the middle of the semester (final deadline to be announced during class).

• Failure to submit the first paper by the mid-semester deadline will mean automatic reversion to option A.

Textbooks:

Pdf files of the relevant texts will be made available via the Keio University website to those registered for the course.

Reference Books:

Gessel Van C. Matsumoto Tomone eds., The Showa Anthology: Modern Japanese Short Stories, Kodansha International: Tokyo and New York, 1989

Goossen, Theodore W. ed. The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories. O.U.P: Oxford, New York, 2010[1997].

Hibbett, Howard ed. Contemporary Japanese Literature: An anthology of Fiction, Film and Other Writing Since 1945, Cheng and Tsui: Boston 2005[1997].

Morris Ivan, ed. Modern Japanese Short Stories; An Anthology. Rutland Vermont: Tuttle, Tokyo, 1962.

Rimer Thomas J, Gessel Van C.eds The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature: From 1945 to the Present (Modern Asian Literature Series) Columbia University Press: 2007.

Lecturer's Comments to Students:

Please take to heart the final comments in the course description regarding the need to read texts in advance. Half the assessment is based on class participation, therefore failure to contribute to class discussion on a regular basis will critically endanger your grade. As noted above, you will not be able to take part usefully in the discussion if you do not read the texts.

Questions/Comments:

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