

Keio University Syllabus and Timetable

ENCOUNTERS WITH THE OTHER IN MODERN JAPANESE SHORT FICTION

Subtitle	Encounters with the Other in Modern Japanese Short Fiction
Lecturer(s)	RAESIDE, JAMES M.
Credit(s)	2
Academic Year/Semester	2024 Fall
Day/Period	Thu.4
Campus	Mita
Classroom	143-A
Class Format	Face-to-face classes (conducted mainly in-person)
Registration Number	27212
Faculty/Graduate School	INTERNATIONAL CENTER
Year Level	2, 3, 4
Grade Type	S, A, B, C, D
K-Number	CIN-CO- -212-02

▼ Detail

Course Contents/Objectives/Teaching Method/Intended Learning Outcome

The aim of this course is to examine Japanese short fiction in the modern period by focussing on those texts containing encounters between representatives of Japan and what lies beyond its shores. These encounters are not confined to meetings between individuals but also include a “meeting of minds” when the protagonist or the text itself can be seen to have engaged with ideas or texts from beyond Japan.

All texts will be discussed on the basis of their English translations, and the language of discussion will be English. However, the original Japanese texts will also be made available for those able to make use of both. Native speakers of Japanese are particularly encouraged to use their knowledge of the original language to add to the discussion. In any case, it is imperative to the functioning of the class that all participants make time to read the stories beforehand and be prepared to talk about them in detail. Only those who have made this effort will be able to participate usefully in the discussion.

Active Learning Methods ⓘ [Description](#)

Discussions, Debates

Preparatory Study

Read any works of modern literature that interest you, particularly short stories.

Course Plan

Lesson 1

Introductory

Lesson 2

Natsume Soseki “The Tower of London”

Lesson 3

Mori Ogai “The Dancing Girl”

Lesson 4

Akutagawa Ryunosuke “The Faint Smiles of the Gods”

Lesson 5

Nagai Kafu American Stories

Lesson 6

Tanizaki Junichiro “Aguri”

Lesson 7

Hayashi Fumiko "Borneo Diamond"

Lesson 8

Oe Kenzaburo “Prize Stock”/“The Catch”

Lesson 9

Kojima Nobuo “The American School”

Lesson 10

Endo Shusaku “A Summer in Rouen”

Lesson 11

Mishima Yukio “Thermos Bottles”

Lesson 12

Nosaka Akiyuki “American Hijiki”/ “American Alga”

Lesson 13

Kurahashi Yumiko “To Die at the Estuary

Lesson 14

Murakami Haruki “Tony Takitani”

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.

Feedback will be provided via email or via the university's Canvas system.

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 concerning 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.

Question/Comments

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