

## Japanese 407E, Readings in Modern Japanese Literature, Spring 2017

This course is designed to help students develop the skills to read literary texts written for an adult audience. Because independent reading is the goal, word lists and annotations will not be provided. Instead, students will be introduced to web-based references that can later be used for self-directed reading. The texts will be chosen from among short stories written by representative Japanese writers. The course will introduce students to the linguistic and formal features of literary discourse.

TR, 10:30-11:45  
Moore 423

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00, and by appointment

### Course Learning Outcomes

- Students will make progress in analyzing the structure and meaning of written Japanese sentences.
- Students will learn to identify and examine key formal features of short narratives.
- Students will gain experience in recognizing and evaluating the thematic contents of narratives.
- Students will gain proficiency in using appropriate reference sources, principally those that are web-based.

The course helps students make progress toward the following departmental and university learning outcomes.

### Japanese BA SLOs

- [READING] Read and comprehend texts written in Japanese from a variety of genres and contexts.
- [RESEARCH] Use a variety of Japanese reference works and sources, including dictionaries and encyclopedias both in book form and on the internet.
- [LITERATURE] Identify and describe major authors, works, features, forms, and styles of Japanese literature, both premodern and modern.
- [LITERATURE] Analyze and interpret works of Japanese poetry, prose, and drama, read both in translation and in the original Japanese, using terms appropriate to each genre.

### Mānoa ILOs

- [1a. GENERAL EDUCATION] Languages
- [1b. SPECIALIZED STUDY IN AN ACADEMIC FIELD] The major
- [2a. THINK CRITICALLY AND CREATIVELY] Solving challenging and complex problems; being information literate; negotiating the terrain of the technological world
- [3a. CONTINUOUS LEARNING AND PERSONAL GROWTH] Life-long learning

### Class Procedure

This class will be conducted in both Japanese and English. Students are responsible for preparing the portions of the text to be covered in each session. Comprehension questions will be asked in Japanese, but we will use English to analyze and translate more difficult sentences as well as to discuss thematic and formal elements.

Because we will be using web sources, laptops and tablets are allowed in class. Students engaging in irrelevant use of computers and phones, however, will be asked to leave for the session.

### Requirements

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| Class attendance, preparation, and performance                         | 50% |
| (More than 4 unexcused absences will result in a lowered global grade) |     |
| Midterm Examination  | 20% |
| Final Exam ( <b>Thursday, May 11, 9:45-11:45</b> )                     | 30% |

### Reading List

The reading list may be modified in accordance with student interests and abilities. Readings will either be on *Aozora bunko* or on *Laulima*.

Natsume Sōseki, selections from *Garasudo no uchi* (1915)

Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, “Kaeru” (1917), “Nyotai” (1917), “Fushigi na shima” (1924)

Kawabata Yasunari, selections from *Tanagokoro no shōsetsu*

Murakami Haruki, “Tongari yaki no seisui” (1983), “Kagami” (1983)

Yoshimoto Banana, “Midori no yubi” (2002)