



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

JPNS 327-01

**MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION**

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
2:00 PM – 03:15 PM  
Science Theatres (ST) 63

FALL 2019

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Dr. Ben Whaley

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Craigie Hall D 425

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 15:30-16:30, or by email appointment

**TELEPHONE:** (403) 220-3482

**E-MAIL:** benjamin.whaley@ucalgary.ca

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

This class introduces modern and contemporary Japanese literary works from a wide variety of writers and genres. We will focus exclusively on literature from Japan's postwar era (1945–present), locating these works in the larger political, social, and cultural trends of the time. This term the focus will be on the representation of gender in Japanese literature, and we will trace this theme through four main units. First, we will examine conflicts with gender through literature about the Pacific War (1942–45), its aftermath, and the Allied Occupation (1945–52). We will read works by Okinawan writers as well as literature of the atomic bomb. Next, we will turn our attention to gender within Japan. Students will be introduced to literature by and about minority groups in Japan, including *burakumin* (descendants of Japan's outcast group), *zainichi* (resident) Koreans, as well as foreigners and disaffected youth. Our third unit will trace the emergence of a new generation of women writers from the 1960s–80s who portray the female body as other through their prose. We will conclude by considering whether popular visual media such as manga (print comics) and anime (animation) constitute an "other literature." The goal of this course is to use literary texts as a point of entry to understand Japan's relationship with ethno-racial, societal, and gendered otherness during its journey from defeat in the Pacific War to the remarkable prosperity of the bubble years and beyond.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course students will have:

- Been exposed to a wide variety of writers working in many different genres and styles
- Contextualized these works within the sociocultural and political history of postwar Japan
- Learned key aspects of narratology and how to read and analyze a text
- Practiced this literary analysis through several short response papers
- Completed a single analytical essay of exceptional quality, having designed their own argument, gathered appropriate evidence, and drafted and revised their writing with instructor feedback.



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**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Attendance and Class Participation	15%
2 Response Papers	20% (2@10% each)
3 Book Quizzes	30% (3@10% each)
Final Paper	35% (5% = Emailed Proposal of Revisal + 30% = Paper)

**GRADING SCALE**

A+ 90–100	A 85–89	A– 80–84
B+ 76–79	B 72–75	B– 68–71
C+ 64–67	C 60–63	C– 55–59
D 50–54	Fail ≤49	

**REQUIRED BOOKS**

- **Kirino**, Natsuo. *OUT*. Translated by Stephen Snyder. Vintage International, 2005.
- **Murakami**, Haruki. *A Wild Sheep Chase*. Translated by Alfred Birnbaum. Vintage International, 2002.
- **Murata**, Sayaka. *Convenience Store Woman*. Translated by Ginny Tapley Takemori. Grove, 2018.

These three novels will be read in their entirety. They are available for purchase from the U of C Bookstore. All other required and optional readings will be provided on D2L.

**COURSE NOTES**

Regular attendance and in-class participation are expected for this course.

- Course readings will be taught in translation, so no prior knowledge of Japanese language is required.
- Students are naturally expected to come to each class having already read all the **required readings** and prepared to discuss them. As this is a literature class, please expect to complete 20-50 pages of reading per class meeting. Students who do not complete the readings will have a difficult time excelling in this class.
- **Attendance** will be taken daily via a sign-in sheet and lateness and absences will negatively impact grades.
- **Make-Up Work** will only be allowed with proper documentation or a statutory declaration.
- Readings, lecture notes, the syllabus, and announcements will be **posted on D2L**. You are expected to check the course website regularly. Please make sure the email address registered with U of C is one you check frequently, or you may miss out on class announcements!
- Students are expected to complete their own academic work and assignments found to be **copied or plagiarized** will be punished with the offending students reported to the SLLLC and the Dean's office.

**WARNING(!)**

Some of the literary works we will read contain potentially disturbing content such as grotesque scenes, sexual violence, and acts of racism. **If you will be too uncomfortable to read these materials or take part in these discussions, you should not take this course.** Please contact the instructor with any questions or concerns.



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#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.



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Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

**FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.