



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

JPNS 327-01

MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION

Tuesdays and Thursdays
Scheduled Time: 2:00 PM – 03:15 PM MST/MDT
Asynchronous Online Course

WINTER 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Ben Whaley

OFFICE HOURS: Online via Zoom or by email appointment

E-MAIL: benjamin.whaley@ucalgary.ca (I will respond to emails Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: Please use the email above as my office number will not be checked frequently.

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 and selfhood in Japanese literature, and we will trace this theme through three core novels and several short stories. We will begin by examining gendered politics through literature about the Pacific War (1942–45), its aftermath, and the Allied Occupation (1945–52). This will include reading works by Okinawan writers as well the genre of science fiction. Throughout this class we will trace the emergence of a new generation of women writers from the 1980s to the present who portray the female body as other through their prose. 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 its remarkable prosperity during 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 analytical essays of high quality, having designed their own argument, gathered appropriate textual evidence, and revised their writing with instructor feedback.

REQUIRED BOOKS (3 NOVELS)

The following three novels will be read in their entirety and must be purchased. They are available from the U of C Bookstore or online. All other required and recommended readings will be provided on D2L.



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- **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.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

In order to take this class, students need access to the following:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone
- Stable internet connection

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE (SYNCHRONOUS MEETINGS)

JANUARY 12 (Tue) – First Class Course Introduction

JAN 14 (Thu) – Women Writers of Japan: Read Kurahashi Yumiko’s short story “An Extraterrestrial” (1964) (on D2L)

JAN 21 – Literature of the Allied Occupation: Read Kojima Nobuo’s short story “The American School” (1954) (on D2L)

JAN 28 – Start Murata Sayaka’s *Convenience Store Woman (CSW)*, pp. 1–81 (stop at *** chapter break)

FEBRUARY 4 – Finish Murata, *CSW*, pp. 81–END

QUIZ #1 on *Convenience Store Woman*; complete by FEB 7 (SUN) @ MIDNIGHT on D2L

FEB 11 – Start Murakami Haruki’s *A Wild Sheep Chase (WSC)*, pp. 1–109 (stop at chapter break)

—READING WEEK—

PAPER #1 on *Convenience Store Woman*; upload by FEB 16 (TUE) @ MIDNIGHT to D2L Dropbox

FEB 25 – Murakami, *WSC*, pp. 110–210

MARCH 4 – Murakami, *WSC*, pp. 211–303

MAR 11 – Finish Murakami, *WSC*, pp. 304–END

QUIZ #2 on *A Wild Sheep Chase*; complete by MAR 14 (SUN) @ MIDNIGHT on D2L

MAR 18 – Start Kirino Natsuo’s *OUT*, pp. 1–104 (stop at chapter break)

PAPER #2 on *A Wild Sheep Chase*; upload by MAR 23 (TUE) @ MIDNIGHT to D2L Dropbox



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MAR 25 – Kirino, *OUT*, pp. 104–206

APRIL 1 – Kirino, *OUT*, pp. 206–289

APR 8 – Finish Kirino, *OUT*, pp. 291–END

PROPOSAL for Paper #3 on *OUT*; email to Instructor by APR 9 (FRI) @ MIDNIGHT

QUIZ #3 on *OUT*; complete by APR 11 (SUN) @ MIDNIGHT on D2L

APR 15 – Last Class Wrap-up Discussion

PAPER #3 on *OUT*; upload by APR 15 (THU – LAST CLASS) @ MIDNIGHT to D2L Dropbox

COURSE NOTES

- Per University guidelines, this class will be a hybrid online offering and have no in-person meetings on campus. All work will be submitted remotely via **D2L**. Course evaluations will also be online.
- Throughout this course, students will view **pre-recorded video lectures** and complete the associated **reading assignments** on their own time each week.
- All class meetings and assignment due dates will follow Mountain Time.
- When possible, students should enable **video** or, at the very least, **microphone audio** over Zoom during class meetings.
- **Tuesdays will be asynchronous** for the entire term (1/19 – 4/13), where students will watch pre-recorded lectures and read the novels. The first day, Tue 1/12, will be synchronous for the full class time to introduce the course structure and various assignments.
- **Thursdays will be synchronous** for the entire term (1/14 – 4/15), where students will engage in group discussion with the instructor about the lecture and reading content from that week over ZOOM. Class time on Thursdays will remain as scheduled (2pm – 3:15pm) in its entirety. Students should plan to watch the lectures and complete the reading assignments prior to that week’s Zoom session.
- Students are expected to check the **course website (D2L)** regularly. Please make sure the email address registered with U of C is one you check frequently, or you may miss out on announcements!
- As a general rule **Late or make-up work** will not be offered. Students requesting make-up work or concessions should discuss their individual situation with the instructor.
- Literary works will be taught **in translation**, so no prior knowledge of Japanese is necessary. I will base quizzes, passages, paper prompts, and page numbers on the officially published English-language versions indicated above.
- Students should be prepared to complete approximately **100 pages of literature reading per week**. Students who do not read the novels will have a difficult time excelling in this class.
- There will be no registrar scheduled final examination for this course.

WARNING(!)

Some of the literary works we will read this term 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 feel free to write to the instructor with any questions or concerns.



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ASSESSMENTS

All assignments are required work in order to pass the class.

3 Response Papers	60% (3@20%; one on each novel; prompts provided for papers 1 and 2; Submitted to the D2L Dropbox and graded via a D2L rubric)
Final Paper Proposal	10% (Email proposal with thesis and evidence for paper 3 on <i>OUT</i>)
3 Book Quizzes	30% (3@10%; one on each novel; 4-day window; completed via D2L)

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	

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

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.



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. 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://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

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

Website: 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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.



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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

Links to 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>.