World Cultures: Intro to Japanese Culture
Tues/Thurs 11:00-12:15 Silver 408

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Teaching Assistants:
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Readings: All readings are compiled in a reading packet. Recommended readings are included in the packet, but are not required reading; suggested readings will be available on reserve for those who may be interested.

Method of Evaluation:
In class midterm: 40%
Final exam: 50%
Participation: 10%

Sept. 5 Introduction

Sept. 7 Movie: Princess Mononoke
• Napier, “Princess Mononoke: Fantasy, the Feminine and the Myth of Progress”
• Recommended: Amino, “Emperor, Rice, and Commoners”

I. Consistencies of State: Before the Nation

Sept. 12 Mythologies
• Kojiki (pp. 37-53)
• Manyōshū (poems 1-6)
• Tale of Genji (Chaps. 1-3, 17)

Sept. 14 Towards the Bakuhan System: Geographies of State
• J. W. Hall, “The Bakuhan System” (in Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. 4)

Sept. 19 “Economics”: Permanent Cycles, Fixed Value
• Zeami, “Matsukaze,” “The Reed Cutter” (nō plays)
• Recommended: T.C. Smith, The Agrarian Origins of Modern Japan (Chaps. 2, 8)
Sept. 21  The Knowledge of Capital: from *Ukiyo* to *Ukiyo*, and Madness & Excess
   • Saikaku, *The Japanese Family Storehouse* (short selection)
   • “Sukeroku” (kabuki play)
   • Recommended: Shikitei Sanba, *Ukiyoburo* (“The Bathhouse”)
   • Suggested: Shively, “Bakufu vs. Kabuki”

Sept. 26  Early Modern Japan as Confucian? Epistemologies of State
   • Ogyu Sorai, “Bendo” (“A Discourse on the Way”)
   • Kamo Mabuchi, “Kokuiko” (“Ideas on the Meaning of the Realm”)
   • Dazai Shundai, “Keizai Roku Shui” (“Thoughts on Political Economy”)
   • Furai Sanjin, “Hohiron” (“On Farting”)
   • Recommended: *Practical Pursuits: Takano Chôei & Western Medicine*, pp. 1-13.
   • Suggested: Sharf, “Zen and Japanese Nationalism”

Sept. 28  Movie: *Eijanaika*
   • Recommended: Wilson, “Plotting Bakumatsu History”

II. National Culture

Oct. 3  Fragmentation and “Restoration”: the Meiji State
   • Film: *The Meiji Revolution: Asia’s Response to the West*
   • Borthwick et al, *The Pacific Century*: “Meiji Japan in the Age of Imperialism”
   • Suggested: Mary Elizabeth Berry, “Was Early Modern Japan Culturally Integrated?” in *Beyond Binary Histories*

Oct. 5  Culture and Modernity: Beauty, West, and East
   • Tanizaki, “In Praise of Shadows”
   • Suggested: Nishi Amane, “Writing Japanese with the Western Alphabet”
Oct. 10  The Japanese Folk
• Harootunian, “Figuring the Folk”, in Mirror of Modernity
• Yanagita, Japanese Folk Tales: The Tales of Tono (short selection)
• Suggested: Marilyn Ivy, “Ghastly Insufficiencies,” in Discourses of the Vanishing
• Suggested: Kohl, The White Birch Society
• Suggested: Kikuchi, “ Appropriation of Orientalism: The formation of Mingei theory…”

Oct. 12  MIDTERM

Oct. 17  Movie: Family Game

Oct. 19  Family Japan
• Norma Field, “The Child as Laborer and Consumer: The Disappearance of Childhood”
• Schodt, “Regulation vs. Fantasy”, in Manga Manga
• Suggested: Wilber M. Fridell, “Family State”

Oct. 24  Economics of the Postwar; Memory, Peace and Protest
• Norma Field, In the Realm of a Dying Emperor, Ch. 3, Epilogue
• Suggested: Lisa Yoneyama, “Memory Matters: Hiroshima’s Korean Atom bomb Memorial and the Politics of Ethnicity”
• Suggested: Atkins, “Bop, Funk, and that Old Democracy Boogie: Jazz Tribes in Postwar Japan”

Oct. 26  Nuclear Modernities
• Movie: Godzilla
• Hara Tamiki, “Summer Flower”
• Ibuse Masuji, “The Crazy Iris”

III. National Culture II: Other Japans

Oct. 31  Gendering Japan: Women, Desire, Work
• Junichiro Tanizaki, “Aguri”
• Sharon Sievers, “The Early Meiji Debate on Women”
• Recommended: “The Woman Who Admired Vermin”
• Recommended: Tsushima Yuko, “The Marsh”
• Suggested: Barbara Sato, “Commodifying and Engendering Morality”
Nov. 2  Species, Ethnicity, and Nationality: Eta, Burakumin & “Korean” Residents
  • “The History of Koreans in Japan,” and “Alien Control”
  • Recommended: “Survivors Tell Their Stories”—selection from True Stories of the Korean Comfort Women

Nov. 7  The Place of Okinawa, and the Ainu
  • Oshiro Tatsuhiro, “The Cocktail Party”
  • Richard Siddle, “Ainu History: An Overview”

Nov. 9  New Religions
  • Shimazono Susumu, “In the Wake of Aum”
  • “New Religions,” in Mangajin

IV. Beyond Modernity and Tradition

Nov. 14  Mass Cultural Consumption
  • Marilyn Ivy, “Tradition and Difference”
  • Jennifer Robertson, “It Takes a Village: Internationalization and Nostalgia in Postwar Japan
  • Suggested: Tansman, “Mournful Tears and Sake: The Postwar Myth of Misora Hibari”
  • Suggested: Yoshimoto, “Real Virtuality”

Nov. 16  Visiting Speaker: M. Sakurai, Consul General and Ambassador of Japan

Nov. 21  Movie: Ghost in the Shell (or, Akira)

Nov. 23  - Holiday -

Nov. 28  National Identities, Double Identities
  • Rumiko Takahashi, Ranma 1/2 (manga)
  • Ueno Toshiya, “Techno-Orientalism and Media-Tribalism”
  • Suggested: Kelsky, “Flirting with the Foreign: Interracial Sex in Japan’s ‘International’ Age”
  • Suggested: Yumiko Iida, “Back to Identity”

Nov. 30  TBA
Dec. 5  Japan in the World: Global Japan?
  • Iwabuchi, “Localizing ‘Japan’ in the Booming Asian Media Markets”
  • Masao Miyoshi, “A Borderless World?”
  • Suggested: Shiraishi, “Japan’s Soft Power: Doraemon Goes Overseas”

Dec. 7
  • Movie: Shangri-La (time permitting)
  • Hayashi & McKnight “Goodbye Kitty Hello War: the Tactics of Spectacle and New Youth Movements in Urban Japan”

Dec. 9
  • Iida, “Japan in the 1990’s and Beyond”
  • Kang, “In Range of the Critique of Orientalism”
  • Recommended: Iyotani, “The Modern World System and the Nations of the Periphery”

Dec. 13  Review