

KC3023 Contemporary Global Issues A

- Modern Japanese Cultural Modernity in Historical Context. -

Yokohama
CHANG Chia-ning
Mon 2

【Course Description】

This course explores modern Japanese cultural and literary imagination by first examining Japan's interactions with the West after Meiji, the development of its psychological novels, and the rise of "naturalist" literature at the turn of the last century. This is followed by Japan's experiments with interwar liberalism, the characteristics of Taisho urban culture, the rise of and resistance against fascism, and the political culture of Japanese colonialism during the war years. The course continues with the study of Japan's postwar milieu until the suicide of Mishima Yukio in 1970.

【Class Goals】

The course is designed for students to develop a critical and wide-ranging understanding of the essential elements embodied within, and characteristic of, modern Japanese literary and cultural modernity since the Meiji period. This is achieved through close reading and discussion of seminal texts and works by important modern Japanese writers, thinkers, and film artists.

【Course Schedule】

- 【第1回】Course Introduction, Outline, and Grading Criteria
- 【第2回】Lecture on Edo literature: Ihara Saikaku and Chikamatsu Monzaemon
- 【第3回】Class Presentation on Mori Ogai's "The Dancing Girl"
- 【第4回】Lecture on Natsume Soseki: Later Works and sokuten kyoshi
- 【第5回】Lecture on Tanizaki Jun'ichiro and Taisho Urban Culture
- 【第6回】Class Presentation on Tanizaki's Naomi
- 【第7回】Lecture on Akutagawa Ryunosuke and the Taisho Generation
- 【第8回】Lecture and Discussion: Shiga Naoya and the White Birch School
- 【第9回】Lecture on Hero or Anti-Hero Yamaguchi Yoshiko and national Policy Films
- 【第10回】Lecture on War and literature during wartime Japan
- 【第11回】Film Screening Ichikawa Kon's "Fires on the Plain"
- 【第12回】Lecture on Postwar Japanese Literature 1945-1960
- 【第13回】Film Screening: Kumai kei's "Sea and Poison"
- 【第14回】Lecture on Abe Kobo
- 【第15回】Lecture on Mishima Yukio

【Preparation for Class】

Students will be required to critically examine required texts including major Japanese novels and short stories. They will be required to make class presentations based on their readings and take active part in discussion. Students need to read prescribed materials for 4 hours per week to prepare.

【Review of Class】

Students will be required to present critical evaluations of the required texts based partly on suggestions and guidelines provided them by the instructor. Written assignments, midterm, and a final paper are required. Students need to read prescribed materials for 4 hours per week for review.

【Remarks for Class】

Students are required to register for Contemporary Global Issues A and Contemporary Global Issues B. Students are strongly encouraged to participate actively in class discussions. Attendance and punctuality are crucial. Absences from classes are not allowed except under compelling circumstances.

【Texts】

UC and other non-Japanese students are required to acquire the required texts consisting of English translations of modern Japanese literary works. Japanese students, if they prefer, may use the original texts which they can acquire from local Japanese bookstores.

【Reference Books】

Kato Shuichi, A History of Japanese Literature, Vol. 3 (Kodansha, U.S.A., 1991).

【Evaluation Criteria】

Midterm 25%
Final paper 25%
Attendance, Discussion, and Presentation 25%
Written Assignment 25%

【Notes】