

KC3024 Contemporary Global Issues B

- Modern Japanese Cultural Modernity in Historical Context. -

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Mon 4

【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】Lecture on Pre-Meiji society, politics, and literature
- 【第2回】Lecture on the ideology of Meiji translations
- 【第3回】Lecture on Natsume Soseki, his career, and his earlier works
- 【第4回】Class presentation on Natsume Soseki's Kokoro
- 【第5回】Lecture on Tanizaki Jun'ichiro's life and works
- 【第6回】Lecture on Nagai Kafu's life and works
- 【第7回】Class presentation on Akutagawa Ryunosuke's Kappa
- 【第8回】midterm exam
- 【第9回】Film Screening Fushimizu Osamu's China Nights
- 【第10回】Video Screening "In the Name of the Emperor"
- 【第11回】Class Presentation: Ooka Shohei's Fires on the Plain
- 【第12回】Class Presentation: Dazai Osamu's No Longer Human
- 【第13回】Class presentation: Endo Shusaku's Sea and Poison
- 【第14回】Class presentation: Abe Kobo's Woman in the Dunes
- 【第15回】Film Screening & Discussion: The Sailor who Fell from Grace with the Sea

【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】