

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Fall 2025	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Odd Years
Course Number	LANG/JPNA240		
Course Title	Contemporary Japanese Literature		
Prerequisites	LANG150 Literature Appreciation OR LANG120 The Art of Storytelling OR LANG220 Rhetorical Analysis and Composition		
Course Instructor	SUGIYAMA Kazutaka	Year Available (Grade Level)	2
Subject Area	Interdisciplinary Arts: Language Arts	Number of Credits	3
Class Style	Lecture	Language of instruction	English

(NOTE 1) Depending on the class size and the capacity of the facility, we may not be able to accommodate all students who wish to register for the course

Course Description	<p>Cap (registrant capacity): 25 students</p> <p>Prerequisite: LANG150 OR LANG 170/LANG220 Or their equivalent (or with my permission)</p> <p>Japan has its own rich and unique cultural tradition which has attracted many people internationally. Although Japan has assimilated into the global era, its cultural uniqueness remains distinct around the world. In this course, we will examine some contemporary Japanese fiction, in which various ways reflect our society. We will read many works by internationally renowned novelists. Through their works we will investigate the hindsight of contemporary Japan.</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	This course is constructed based on students' feedback and comments.
Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	None
Learning Goals	<p>The main objective of this course is to familiarize students with the cultural, social, and political aspects of domestic works of fiction that depict Japan. In addition, since it is a writing course as much as a reading course, students will improve their academic writing skills.</p> <p>As part of the iCLA program, by the end of the course, students will acquire (1) [Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge]; (2) [Having critical, creative, problem solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adapt to a changing world]; (3) [Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams].</p>

iCLA Diploma Policy	DP1/DP2/DP3
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iCLA Diploma Policy

(DP1) To Value Knowledge – Having high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge

(DP2) To Be Able to Adapt to a Changing World – Having critical, creative, problem-solving, intercultural skills, global and independent mindset to adopt to a changing world

(DP3) To Believe in Collaboration – Having a disposition to work effectively and inclusively in teams

(DP4) To Act from a Sense of Personal and Social Responsibility – Having good ethical and moral values to make positive impacts in the world

Active Learning Methods	Flipped Classroom/Discussion, Debate/Presentation				
More details/supplemental information on Active Learning Methods	N/A				
Use of ICT	UNIPA				
Contents of class preparation and review	Writing/reading assignments, revision, research	Hours expected to be spent preparing for class (hours per week)	3 hours	Hours expected to be spent on class review (hours per week)	2 hours
Feedback Methods	Verbal commentaries and feedback on writing assignments.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Participation (Verbal) (DP3)	20%	See the attached rubric
Participation (Written) (DP 1, 2)	20%	See the attached rubric
Midterm Paper (DP 1, 2)	20%	See the attached rubric
Final Project (DP 1, 2, 3)	40%	See the attached rubric

Required Textbook(s)	<p>Selected short readings (will be provided)</p> <p>BOOKS (selected from the list below)</p> <p>Banana Yoshimoto Kitchen</p> <p>Hiroki Kawakami Strange Weather in Tokyo</p> <p>Ryu Murakami In the Miso Soup</p> <p>Miri Yu Tokyo Ueno Station</p> <p>Sayaka Murata Earthlings</p> <p>Rin Usami Idol, Burning: A Novel</p> <p>Junko Takase May You Have Delicious Meals</p> <p>FILMS:</p> <p>Ringu (1998)</p> <p>Ghost in the Shell (1995)</p>
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Other Reading Materials/URL	None
Plagiarism Policy	<p>Plagiarism:</p> <p>Plagiarism is one of the most common and serious academic dishonesty especially in writing courses. In this course, plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the appropriation of material (materials like words, ideas, illustrations, structure) from another source (book, magazine, internet documents, and even writings of a fellow student), and presenting it as if it is your own work. It means that students who fail to give credit for referring to other source materials are also guilty of plagiarism.</p> <p>A student who is found guilty of plagiarism will be given a serious penalty such as an automatic F for an assignment or an entire course depending on the nature of his/her act.</p>
Other Additional Notes (Outline crucial policies and info not mentioned above)	<p>GRADING BREAKDOWN</p> <p>-Participation (Verbal) 20%</p> <p>Students are expected not only to be in class on time but also to actively engage with class activities. Class activities include class discussions, group work, making appropriate comments, and asking questions. Just being in class for every class meeting does not qualify for participation. Also, students may lose participation points when the instructor finds them listening to music, texting, and any other activities that have nothing to do with class materials. The decision is made at the instructor's discretion.</p> <p>-Participation (Written) 20%</p> <p>Students are required to prepare a question/comment on the reading assignments 10 times for the entire semester.</p> <p>-Midterm Paper 20%</p> <p>Students are expected to write one analytical paper around midsemester. Students are encouraged to come up with their own topics, but if necessary, I will provide some prompts. This paper will be graded. Since this is a 200-level course, I expect students to know MLA format and the basic concept of a critical analysis paper for literary studies. The word count: 1,500 words. Questions along with assignment descriptions for this paper will be provided in a timely manner.</p> <p>-Final Project 40% (Presentation 10% Paper 30%)</p> <p>Students are expected to develop their own research in relation to the topic we cover. At the end of the semester, students will have their presentations (10 minutes). This presentation is DIFFERENT from the presentation assignment explained earlier. Also, submit research papers as the final exam. In a process, students are required to submit 1) an abstract, 2) an annotated bibliography)</p> <p>Final Paper: Word count: 2,500 words. Use at least 2 secondary sources.</p> <p>LATE SUBMISSION POLICY</p> <p>Assignments need to be submitted before they are due. Submitting before the next class will result in a one-letter grade reduction. For example, if the due date is Monday, and you submit on Tuesday, you will get a one-letter grade reduction. If you submit on Thursday, that will result in a two-letter grade reduction, and so on.</p> <p>ATTENDANCE POLICY</p> <p>4 absences no penalty, no explanation needed.</p> <p>After this: 5-7 absences, -4 points (out of 20 points) from Verbal participation grade; 8-9 absences -8 points; 10 absences -10 points; more than 10 absences - Fail.</p> <p>Being more than 20 minutes late will be considered absent.</p>

(NOTE 2) Class schedule is subject to change

Class Schedule	
Class Number	Content
Class 1	<p>Class Schedule should be regarded as a guideline but may change to accommodate student needs; unless otherwise stipulated, students are responsible for following the schedule below once details such as page numbers are provided. In addition, minor assignments are not listed as they are highly likely subject to change.</p> <p>Introduction</p>
Class 2	<p>On Japanese contemporary culture</p> <p>"All God's Children Can Dance" by Haruki Murakami</p>
Class 3	<p>"Blind Nightmare" Haruki Murakami</p>
Class 4	<p>Yoshimoto Kitchen (1)</p>
Class 5	<p>Yoshimoto Kitchen (2)</p>
Class 6	<p>Yoshimoto Kitchen (3)</p>

Class 7	Murakami In the Miso Soup (1)
Class 8	Murakami In the Miso Soup (2)
Class 9	Murakami In the Miso Soup (3)
Class 10	Murakami In the Miso Soup (4)
Class 11	Murakami In the Miso Soup (5)
Class 12	Usami Idol, Burning: A Novel (1)
Class 13	Usami Idol, Burning: A Novel (2)
Class 14	Usami Idol, Burning: A Novel (3)
Class 15	Usami Idol, Burning: A Novel (4)
Class 16	Working on Midterm Paper
Class 17	Movie (either Ringu or GIS)
Class 18	Movie (either Ringu or GIS) and discussion Midterm Paper Due
Class 19	Murata Earthlings (1)
Class 20	Murata Earthlings (2)

Class 21	Murata Earthlings (3)
Class 22	Murata Earthlings (4)
Class 23	Murata Earthlings (5)
Class 24	Murata Earthlings (6)
Class 25	Yu Tokyo Ueno Station (1)
Class 26	Yu Tokyo Ueno Station (2)
Class 27	Yu Tokyo Ueno Station (3)
Class 28	Yu Tokyo Ueno Station (4)
Class 29	Final Project Presentation (1)
Class 30	Final Presentation (2) Course Evaluation