

Department	International College of Liberal Arts		
Semester	Spring 2024	Year Offered (Odd/Even/Every Year)	Every Year
Course Number	LANG/JPNA450		
Course Title	Comparative Literature Studies		
Prerequisites	LANG/JPNA 310 Modern Japanese Society and Culture Through Literature OR LANG 331 Creative Nonfiction OR LANG 345 Contemporary Literature, Politics, and Economy OR LANG 346 Contemporary Literature, Politics, and Economy OR LANG370 Contemporary Science Fiction		
Course Instructor	SUGIYAMA Kazutaka	Year Available (Grade Level)	3
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>Prerequisite: LANG/JPNA 310 OR LANG 331 OR LANG 345 OR LANG 346 OR LANG370</p> <p>Posthumanism and Ecocriticism</p> <p>Floods, hurricanes, tsunamis, wildfires, ice/heat waves...as we witness natural disasters more frequently than ever, more and more, we are forced to realize the existence of our nonhuman neighbors-animals, trees, biomes, and above all, the planet Earth. If the twentieth century is the era of modern humanism, which presumes the human as somehow above nonhuman others (anthropocentrism), we are now experiencing a massive scale of ideological shift from it in the twenty-first century, thus calling for a new perspective that allows us to see beyond ourselves. And this is the fundamental concept of a discourse called Posthumanism and/or Ecocriticism. Posthumanism/Ecocriticism is a philosophical discourse inherently interdisciplinary: its conceptual range covers from our ontological (inter)dependence on these nonhuman life forms to our state of being as cyborgs. In this class, we will examine different types of representation of Posthumanism and Ecocriticism. By looking at literature, we will investigate how we reimagine the human in the twenty-first century.</p> <p>link with DP 123</p>
Class plan based on course evaluation from previous academic year	<p>This course is constructed based upon students' feedbacks and comments.</p>

Course related to the instructor's practical experience (Summary of experience)	None
Learning Goals	<p>The main objective of this course is to help students grow in their abilities to understand complex literary works in a comparative context. Students will gain understanding of how cultural, racial, and gender differences shape people's lives socially and politically. 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) [high oral and written communication skills to be able to both comprehend and transfer knowledge]; (2) [the insight and skill they need to make connections, think critically and explore possibilities.]; (3) [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	Reading/writing assignments, revision, and 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 feedbacks and comments on writing assignments.				

Grading Criteria		
Grading Methods	Grading Weights	Grading Content
Participation (Written)	15%	see the rubric
Participation (Verbal)	15%	See the rubric
Presentations (two)	10%	See the rubric
Midterm Paper	30%	See the rubric
Final Project	30%	See the rubric

Required Textbook(s)	<p>Selected short readings (will be provided)</p> <p>Books The books will be chosen from the list below. Fiasco by Stanisław Herman Lem Zero K by Don DeLillo The Overstory by Richard Powers Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro Frankenstein by Mary Shelly The Lives of Animals by J. M. Coetzee</p> <p>Film Princess Mononoke</p>
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. 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>Assignment Descriptions:</p> <p>VERBAL PARTICIPATION (15%) Students are expected to not only be in class on time but also actively engage with class activities. Class activities include class discussion, group work, making appropriate comments, and asking questions. Just being in class for class meeting does not qualify for participation. Also, students may lose participation points when the instructor sees 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>WRITTEN PARTICIPATION (15%) As per our pedagogical philosophy, we encourage students to take initiative in class discussion. To facilitate it, students are required to prepare a question/comment on the reading assignments at least 10 times during the entire semester. One question/comment is 1 point. And the maximum is 15% of the entire grade. Due every Wednesday midnight.</p> <p>TWO PRESENTATIONS (5% each) Students are expected to do 10-minute presentations at least twice during the semester. They will choose specific topics for their presentations at the beginning of the semester. They will cover the readings of the day they sign up for. This assignment is to encourage students to express their understanding of the texts and enrich shared learning experiences with classmates. Essentially, I expect students to teach us about the readings.</p> <p>MIDTERM PAPER (30%) 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 400 level, I expect students to know MLA format and basic concept of critical analysis paper for literary studies. The word count: 3,000. Use at least 5 secondary sources.</p> <p>FINAL PROJECT (30%) 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 (10mins). This presentation is DIFFERENT from the presentation assignment earlier. Also submit research papers as the final exam. In a process, students are required to submit 1) abstract, annotated bibliography, and final paper. Final Paper: Word count: 4,500 words. Use at least 8 secondary sources.</p> <p>LATE SUBMISSION POLICY Assignments need to be submitted before they are due. Submitting before 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: 4 absences no penalty, no explanation needed. After this: 5-7 absences, -1 letter grade; 8-9 absences -2 letter grades; 10 absences -3 letter grades; more than 10 absences - Fail.</p> <p>Being more than 20 minutes late will be considered absent. Exceptions to participation rule are documented evidence of illness from a clinic or hospital; these must be presented within one week of the missed class. Documented official family emergencies, requiring leaving campus; notify before just after missed class session.</p>
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(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 including writing assignments and revision assignments are not listed as they are highly likely subject to change.</p> <p>Introduction</p>
Class 2	An excerpt from Stephan Herbrechter's Posthumanism
Class 3	An excerpt from Rosi Braidotti's The Posthuman
Class 4	Cary Wolfe an excerpt from What Is Posthumanism?

Class 5	Niklas Luhmann "How Can the Mind Participate in Communication?"
Class 6	Kazuo Ishiguro Never Let Me Go (1)
Class 7	Kazuo Ishiguro Never Let Me Go (2)
Class 8	Kazuo Ishiguro Never Let Me Go (3)
Class 9	Kazuo Ishiguro Never Let Me Go (4)
Class 10	Kazuo Ishiguro Never Let Me Go (5)
Class 11	Reflection of Never Let Me Go
Class 12	Dipesh Chakrabarty's "the Human condition in the Anthropocene" OR An excerpt from Amitav Ghosh's The Great Derangement
Class 13	Robin Wall Kimmerer an excerpt from Braiding Sweetgrass and/or Suzanne Simard an excerpt from Finding the Mother Tree

Class 14	Elaine Gan et al. "Haunted Landscapes of the Anthropocene" OR An excerpt from David Abram's The Spell of the Sensuous
Class 15	Working on Midterm Paper
Class 16	Richard Powers The Overstory (1) Midterm Paper due
Class 17	Richard Powers The Overstory (2)
Class 18	Richard Powers The Overstory (3)
Class 19	Richard Powers The Overstory (4)
Class 20	Richard Powers The Overstory (5)
Class 21	Richard Powers The Overstory (6)
Class 22	Richard Powers The Overstory (7)

Class 23	Richard Powers The Overstory (8)
Class 24	Reflection of The Overstory
Class 25	An excerpt from Giorgio Agamben's Open or Homo Sacer
Class 26	An excerpt from Emanuele Coccia's Metamorphosis
Class 27	Princess Mononoke
Class 28	TBA
Class 29	Final Project Presentation
Class 30	Final Project Presentation Course Evaluation