ALL 3437
EARLY 20TH CENTURY JAPANESE LITERATURE IN TRANSLATION
Fall 2015
MW 4:00-5:15
FolH 116

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
Baryon Tensor Posadas
228C Folwell Hall
Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 pm -4:00 pm
bposadas@umn.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course surveys the literary and cultural history of Japan from the Meiji period (1868-1912) up to
the Second World War (1941-1945) with a particular attention to the discourses and institutions
through which a corpus of texts came to be conceived as a canon of a national literature. It is premised
on an understanding of literary study not as a narrowly construed discipline, but as an important nodal
point in a larger field of cultural and historical studies. After all, the institution of literature—and more
specifically, national literature—is historical. As such, it is imperative to pay particular attention to how
the emergence of particular literary forms and genres mediate our understandings of (even as they are
themselves shaped by) the historical process of modernization in Japan. Through the examination of
these fictions, we will track their relations with such historical developments as the formation of the
nation-state, the process of urbanization, the impact of the popularization of visual technologies like
photography and cinema, changes in the social position of women, and the expansion of the Japanese
empire. In the course of our discussions, participants will be expected not only to gain a familiarity with
the literary history of modern Japan, but more importantly, to be able to articulate the social and
political forces shaping the very construction of this national literary history.

As all the texts will be made available in English translation, no prior Japanese language proficiency is
required.

COURSE EVALUATION
Attendance and participation 20%
Weekly responses (x10) 20%
Midterm paper (4 pages) 20%
Final paper (8-10 pages) 40%

Attendance and Participation
Attendance to class sessions and active participation in the discussions are mandatory. Please come to
class having already read both the literary texts and the critical materials assigned for that session and
be prepared to critically discuss them in class.

Weekly responses
At the beginning of each week, students are required to electronically circulate a short response to be
posted on the discussion board of the course website. In these responses, students are tasked to
critically reflect on one or more of the assigned theoretical readings. These reflections should go beyond
mere summaries of the texts; instead, they should raise questions for discussion, highlight important
critical points, and demonstrate a grasp of the key issues at hand. The format is fairly informal and flexible, and can consist of (for example) a set of questions to raise for discussion, or a staging of a debate between two or more readings, or a discussion of an essay's arguments in relation to one of the assigned literary texts, or a reaction/counterpoint to other posted responses. Responses are due by class time on the Monday session, and will be used as the set-up for further discussion during the Wednesday session.

(Due every Monday by class time)

No late responses will be accepted

Midterm Paper
As a midterm assignment, students are required to submit a critical reflection of about 4 pages in length. In this reflection, students are tasked to critically engage with key issues raised in the class up to that point by making use of the assigned readings taken up during the discussions from the preceding weeks. Students are encouraged to make use of this reflection as a space to begin to articulate their own particular interests in relation to the course material, potentially leading towards further expansion of these ideas in the final paper. A set of guide questions will be provided a few weeks in advance of the due date for the paper.

(Due Oct 28th)

Late midterm papers will be subject to a 2% penalty per day.

Final Paper
Using one or more Japanese literary texts as a focal point, produce a solid original analysis of selected critical issues arising from how the text in question illuminates and is informed the history of modernity, the nation, and empire in Japan. Final papers should be between 8-10 pages in length, and should be rigorously documented and well-organized. While students are expected to make use of the relevant theoretical and critical materials covered in class, the specific choice of text and focus of the paper is for the student to determine, in close consultation with the instructor. A set of guidelines will be provided closer to the deadline for submission of the final paper.

(Due Dec 16th)

Late final papers will be subject to a 2% penalty per day.

REQUIRED TEXTS

All other materials listed below will be made available through the course website.
SCHEDULE

Week 1   Introduction

Sep 9   Orientation

Week 2   Literary Modernization in Japan


Week 3   Railways and Urban Space

Sep 21   Natsume Sōseki, *Sanshiro*


Sep 23   Natsume Sōseki, *Sanshiro* (cont.)


Week 4   Interiority and the I-novel


Week 5  The Modern Girl


Oct 7  Tanizaki Jun’ichirō. Naomi. (cont.)


Week 6  Cinema and Literary Form


Week 7  Panorama and Empire

Oct 19  Edogawa Rampo, A Strange Tale of Panorama Island


Oct 21  Edogawa Rampo, A Strange Tale of Panorama Island (cont.)

Week 8  Midterm Break

Oct 26  NO CLASS
Oct 28  MIDTERM PAPERS DUE

Week 9  Fragmented Identities, Fragmented Narratives


Week 10  Ethnography and the Erotic-grotesque


Nov 11  Kawabata Yasunari, The Scarlet Gang of Asakusa. (cont.)


Week 11  The Traffic of Gazes in Urban Space


**Week 12**  
The Problem of “Women's Literature”

*Nov 23*  
Hayashi Fumiko, “Diary of a Vagabond.”


*Nov 25*  
Hayashi Fumiko, “Diary of a Vagabond.” (cont.)


**Week 13**  
Writing the Colonial Periphery

*Nov 30*  


*Dec 2*  


**Week 14**  
Imperial Circulation of Bodies

*Dec 7*  
Yokomitsu Riichi, *Shanghai.*


*Dec 9*  
Yokomitsu Riichi, *Shanghai.* (cont.)


**Week 15**  
Translation and Reinvention in Postwar Japan

*Dec 14*  

Dec 16 FINAL PAPERS DUE

POLICY STATEMENTS

Grading Policy
The University utilizes plus and minus grading on a 4.000 cumulative grade point scale. In this course, numeric percentile grades will be converted to letter grades using the following standard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Min-Max</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Represents achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>Represents achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either: (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit; or (2) was not completed, and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded and “I” (see also I).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td></td>
<td>Assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Requires written agreement between the instructor and the student.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For additional information, please refer to:

http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/GRADINGTRANSCRIPTS.html

Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences
Students will not be penalized for absence during the semester due to unavoidable or legitimate circumstances. Such circumstances include verified illness, participation in intercollegiate athletic events, subpoenas, jury duty, military service, bereavement, and religious observances. Such circumstances do not include voting in local, state, or national elections. For complete information, please see:

http://policy.umn.edu/Policies/Education/Education/MAKEUPWORK.html

Student Conduct Code
The University seeks an environment that promotes academic achievement and integrity, that is protective of free inquiry, and that serves the educational mission of the University. Similarly, the University seeks a community that is free from violence, threats, and intimidation; that is respectful of the rights, opportunities, and welfare of students, faculty, staff, and guests of the University; and that does not threaten the physical or mental health or safety of members of the University community.
As a student at the University you are expected adhere to Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code. To review the Student Conduct Code, please see:


Note that the conduct code specifically addresses disruptive classroom conduct, which means "engaging in behavior that substantially or repeatedly interrupts either the instructor’s ability to teach or student learning. The classroom extends to any setting where a student is engaged in work toward academic credit or satisfaction of program-based requirements or related activities."

**Scholastic Dishonesty**
You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "F" or an "N" for the course, and may face additional sanctions from the University.

The Office for Student Conduct and Academic Integrity has compiled a useful list of Frequently Asked Questions pertaining to scholastic dishonesty:

http://www1.umn.edu/oscai/integrity/student/index.html.

If you have additional questions, please clarify with your instructor for the course. Your instructor can respond to your specific questions regarding what would constitute scholastic dishonesty in the context of a particular class—e.g., whether collaboration on assignments is permitted, requirements and methods for citing sources, if electronic aids are permitted or prohibited during an exam.

**Equity, Diversity, Equal Opportunity, and Affirmative Action**
The University will provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs and facilities, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. For more information, please consult Board of Regents Policy:

http://regents.umn.edu/sites/

**Sexual Harassment**
"Sexual harassment" means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and/or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or academic performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working or academic environment in any University activity or program. Such behavior is not acceptable in the University setting. For additional information, please consult Board of Regents Policy:

http://regents.umn.edu/sites/default/files/policies/SexHarassment.pdf

**Disability Accommodations**
The University of Minnesota is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. Disability Services (DS) is the campus office that collaborates with students who have disabilities to provide and/or arrange reasonable accommodations.

If you have, or think you may have, a disability (e.g., mental health, attentional, learning, chronic health, sensory, or physical), please contact DS at 612-626-1333 to arrange a confidential discussion regarding equitable access and reasonable accommodations.

If you are registered with DS and have a current letter requesting reasonable accommodations, please contact your instructor as early in the semester as possible to discuss how the accommodations will be applied in the course.

For more information, please see the DS website:

https://diversity.umn.edu/disability/

**Academic Freedom and Responsibility**

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Within the scope and content of the course as defined by the instructor, it includes the freedom to discuss relevant matters in the classroom. Along with this freedom comes responsibility. Students are encouraged to develop the capacity for critical judgment and to engage in a sustained and independent search for truth. Students are free to take reasoned exception to the views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.

Reports of concerns about academic freedom are taken seriously, and there are individuals and offices available for help. Contact the instructor, the Department Chair, your adviser, the associate dean of the college, or the Vice Provost for Faculty and Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost.