

JAPN 3090 日本文学入門 Introduction to Japanese Literature

The course is intended to introduce Japanese literary works (mostly modern but some classical are included) of various forms and styles.

Japanese language by nature is a 'literal' language with notable divide between spoken language and written language. While most of classroom language learning generally focuses on speaking aspect of the language, in order to fully understand the language, knowledge of the literature and the culture is essential. To gain higher level of linguistic proficiency, it is helpful to be exposed to more sophisticated language often found in literary works. This course is designed to help students ease into the world of Japanese literature. As students survey what is considered to be classics – variety of widely read literary works, students will be able to learn more advanced level of vocabulary and expressions.

By sampling original literary works such as short stories, essays, poetry, students will be familiarized themselves with different writing styles, while learning about the historical and social background of time periods in which they were created. Examination of the original literary works enables students to consider the thought processes of each writer.

Through poetry reading with some translation activities, nuance and colors of the language will be discussed.

Films will be incorporated as part of introduction to literature when they are appropriate.

The semester will end with students' engagement in creating their own literary work, short poems called *Senryu* (川柳)- light hearted and humorous satirical version of *Haiku*.

The prerequisite for the courses is JAPN 3010 and 3020. Those who have not completed Japanese 3010 and 3020 must demonstrate equivalent level of achievement on the placement test provided by the department. The test is administered in the main office #204. The \$25 processing fee is required.

Students are expected to come to classes prepared to discuss the assigned material each time. Majority of the class time will be devoted to discussion.

Types of literary work introduced in this course are:

Shot stories ショートショート

Essays エッセイ

Poetry 詩歌

Free form Poetry 自由詩

Tanka 短歌

Haiku 俳句

Senryu 川柳

Text: 教材

ショートショート：星新一（printed handouts）

Read Real Japanese: Essays/Contemporary Writings by Popular Authors Kodansha International

Other materials to be accessed from online archive **Aozora Bunko** 青空文庫
www.aozora.gr.jp

Grading: 評価

Class discussion on the materials is the major element in grading. It is very crucial that students be fully prepared to participate in class discussions each time.

<i>Kanji/Vocabulary Quiz</i>	25 %
Assignments/Presentations	30 %
Class Participation/Discussion	30 %
Paper of Japanese Literature on Chosen Topic	10 %
<i>Senryu</i> (川柳)	5 %

Your performance in each of the above area will contribute to your overall grade in the course by percentage indicated. Final grades will be based on a scale of 90-100 (A), 85-89 (A-), 80-84 (B+), 75-79 (B), 70-74 (B-), 65-69 (C+), 60-64 (C), 55-59 (C-), etc.

Quizzes: クイズ

5 Kanji and Vocabulary Quizzes will be given. Students must take each quiz on scheduled days at the Tutoring Room located in Geology #415 during the normal tutoring hours (10 a.m.- 3p.m.).

Assignments: 宿題

Assignments, such as essays, translations and presentations will be given. Quality and completeness of the work will be affected in grade. Late submission will be accepted no later than one week after the deadline with 20% point deduction. Essay must be typed using Japanese word processor and must be reviewed and edited by tutors before submission. Tutoring service is available on limited time basis. The schedule for the tutoring will be posted on the second week of the semester.

Paper on Japanese Literature

Students are strongly encouraged to participate in Undergraduate Research Symposium - the date to be announced later.

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Office Hour

appointment only