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JPNS 312.R01: Japanese Literature Medieval to Modern in Translation - Religious Literature of Japan

Michihiro Ama

University of Montana, Missoula, michihiro.ama@mso.umt.edu

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JPNS312: Japanese Literature Medieval to Modern in Translation
Religious Literature of Japan

Time: M/W/F. 1:00-1:50pm

Meeting Place: via Zoom

Instructor: Michihiro Ama (michihiro.ama@mso.umt.edu)

Office Hours: Monday, 11:00-11:50 am and 2:00-2:50 pm, or by appointment

Course Description

This course analyzes religious aspects of Japanese culture that has been formed by Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Christianity in relation to Japan's historical experiences before the Meiji Restoration. We will examine the ways in which Japanese religion is represented in Buddhist tracts, prose literature and poetry, and other forms of art.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the entire curriculum, students should be able to:

- 1) Describe the characteristics of medieval/early modern Japanese experiences of Buddhism, Shinto, Confucianism, and Christianity,
- 2) Explain work of medieval Japanese Buddhists,
- 3) Describe characteristics of literary work of medieval/early modern Japan informed by Buddhism,
- 4) Explain Japanese words which express aesthetic and religious sensibilities,
- 5) Explain the ways in which medieval Japanese religious values and aesthetic concepts are retroactively constructed in modern Japan.

Organization

The class meets three times a week and consists of lectures and discussions. The instruction will be delivered remotely through Zoom.

Grading

Class Attendance	10%
Responses to Reading Assignments	30%
Oral Presentation	10%
Mid-term Exam	15%
Final Research Paper Proposal	5%
Paper #1	10%
Paper #2	10%
<u>Final Papers</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Grade Distribution

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A: 93-100 A-: 90-92 B+: 87-89 B: 83-86 B-: 80-82 C+: 77-79 C: 73-76 C-:
70-72 D+: 67-69 D: 63-66 D-: 60-62 F: below 60

Course Texts

Paul Varley. 2000. *Japanese Culture*—4th Edition (Honolulu: University of Hawai‘i Press).
Endō Shūsaku. *Silence*. (any edition is fine)

Additional Readings

- Benedict, Ruth. 2006. *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword*. New York: Mariner Books.
Originally published in 1946. (pp. 222-253)
- Cunningham, Eric. 2011. *Zen Past and Present*. Ann Arbor, MI: *Association for Asian Studies Inc.* (pp. 33-42)
- Geertz, Clifford. 1988. *Works and Lives: The Anthropologist as Author*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (pp. 116-128)
- Hesse, Hermann. 1971. *Siddhartha: A Novel*. New York: Bantam Books. (pp.3-42)
- Ikegami, Eiko. 1995. *The Taming of the Samurai: Honorific Individualism and the Making of Modern Japan*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (pp.108-113, 223-40)
- Keene, Donald, trans. 1998. *Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu*. New York: Columbia University Press. (pp.39-56, 170-208)
- Leuchtenberger, Jan C. 2013. *Conquering Demons: The “Kirishitan,” Japan, and the World in Early Modern Japanese Literature*. University of Michigan Press. (pp.156-160)
- McCullough, Helen C. trans. 1990. *Classical Japanese Prose: An Anthology*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (pp.379-3992)
- ., 1988. *The Tale of the Heike*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (pp.15-19, 23, 28, 209-212, 313-317, 376-378, 397-400)
- Mills, D. E. 1970. *A Collection of Tales from Uji: A Study and Translation of Uji Shūi Monogatari*. University of Cambridge. (pp.172-175, 192-193, 265, 275-276, 362-263)
- Heldt, Gustav, trans. 2014. *Kojiki: An Account of Ancient Matters*. New York: Columbia University Press. (pp.1-27)
- Ury, Marian. 1993. *Tales of Times Now Past: Sixty-Two Stories from a Medieval Japanese Collection*. Ann Harbor, University of Michigan Press. (pp.30-31, 93-98, 127-131, 172-176)
- Watson, Burton. *Record of Miraculous Events in Japan*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2013. (pp.19-21, 28-30, 35-36, 39, 44-45, 75-79)
- WM. Theodore De Bary, et al, eds. 2001. *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Volume 1, Second Edition: From Earliest Times to 1600*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Moodle

Students are responsible for obtaining updated course information by checking Moodle.

Zoom

The course will be held through Zoom. You will receive a link for each class meeting.

1. Open a web browser and go to: <https://umontana.zoom.us>
2. Click the green Login button at the top of the page
3. Use your NetID and Cyberbear password to log in
4. Hover over “JOIN A MEETING” in the upper right and then click on “With Video On.”

Grading Policy

- If a student drops the course, s/he is responsible for the paperwork. Otherwise, the student will receive an F as the final grade. If a student wishes to change grade option, s/he must register this request. See “Calendar–Important Dates and Deadlines” and <https://www.umt.edu/provost/academiccalendar/>

Changing the status after the official dates and deadlines is NOT permitted.

- *Incomplete grades will NOT be granted*, unless the student has progressed satisfactory but incidents beyond the student’s control prevent him/her from pursuing the goal.
- When long absences and emergencies are expected, consult with the instructor immediately. *Do NOT wait until the incident is over.*
- *Make-up tests will NOT be permitted* unless the student has a legitimate excuse and contacts the instructor 12 hours prior to a quiz/exam day. However, it will be left to the instructor’s discretion as to whether or not a make-up is granted.
- Students are required to maintain all of their work, including tests, quizzes, homework, and artifacts, which may include business cards, a video recording of a presentation, business letters, etc.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to follow ethical standards such as integrity and honesty in preparing and presenting materials that demonstrate their level of knowledge and that is used to determine their grades. When an act of academic dishonesty is detected, the instructor is obliged to speak to the student and report it to the Department. For more detailed information, see University of Montana Student Conduct Code

(<http://www.umt.edu/student-affairs/community-standards/Student%20Conduct%20Code%20-%20FINAL%20-%2008-24-18.pdf>)

Student Service Policies

- **Emergency Procedures:** In case of an emergency evacuation, students will take all their personal belongings and move to a safe area outside the building.

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- **Disability Accommodations:** It is highly recommended that students with certified disabilities make a specific request to the instructor at least one week prior to the particular need.
- **Disruptive and Improper Behavior:** Cell phones must be turned off when a class is in session. No chewing of gum or eating in class is allowed. The dress code should be in accord with the learning place.

SCHEDULE (All Dates and Topics Are Subject to Change)

WK 1: Introduction to the Course

8/19 (W): Syllabus and Logistics

8/21 (F): Introduction to the Course

Readings: Benedict, Ruth. 2006. *The Chrysanthemum and the Sword* (pp. 222-253); Geertz, Clifford. 1988. *Works and Lives* (pp. 116-128)

WK 2: Ancient Japanese Spiritual Sensibilities

8/24 (M): Introduction

Watch *Shinto: Nature, Gods and Man in Japan*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PsNjG5CTgU>

8/26 (W): Early Formation of *kamis*

Reading: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 1 (pp.13-16)

8/28 (F): Early Formation of *kamis*—Cont'd

Reading: *Sources of Japanese Tradition* vol. 1 (pp.17-28); *Kojiki* (pp.1-27)

WK 3: Introduction of Buddhism

8/31 (M): Lecture on Buddhism

Reading: *Siddhartha*, pp.3-42

9/2 (W): Religions in the Asuka and Nara Periods

Reading: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 2 (pp.22-26); *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1 (pp.40-55)

9/4 (F): Religions in the Asuka and Nara Periods—Cont'd

Reading: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 2 (pp.27-47)

WK 4: Japanization of Buddhism

9/7 (M) Labor Day—No Class

9/9 (W): Heian Buddhism **Final Research Paper Proposals Due**

Reading: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 3 (pp.48-56)

9/11 (F): Heian Buddhism—Cont'd

Reading: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 3 (pp.70-76); *Sources of Japanese Tradition* vol. 1 (pp.55-62).

Discussion: The *Lotus Sutra* and the *Vimalakirti Sutra*

WK5: Literary Development of Buddhism

9/14 (M): Buddhism Represented in Heian literature

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 3 (pp.56-70)

9/16 (W): *Setsumiwa*

Readings: *Record of Miraculous Events in Japan* (pp.19-21, 28-30, 35-36, 39, 44-45, 75-79); *Tales of Times Now Past* (pp.30-31, 93-98, 127-131, 172-176)

9/18 (F): *Setsumiwa*—Cont'd

Readings: *A Collection of Tales from Uji* (pp.172-175, 192-193, 265, 275-276, 362-263)

WK 6: Literary Development of Japanese Buddhism—Cont'd

9/21 (M) The *Genpei War* and *Heike monogatari*

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 4; *Heike monogatari* (pp.15-19, 23, 28)

9/23 (W) *Heike Monogatari*—Cont'd and *Hojoki*

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 5 (pp.91-93); *Heike monogatari* (pp.209-212, 313-317, 376-378, 397-400); “An Account of My Hermitage” (pp.379-392)

9/25 (F) **Due: the first draft of a research paper**

WK 7: Kamakura Buddhism

9/28 (M): Pure Land Buddhism (Hōnen)

Readings: *Japanese Culture*, Chapter 5 (pp.98-102) and revisit pp. 70-76; *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1 (pp.222-226).

9/30 (W): Pure Land Buddhism—Cont'd (Shinran and Ippen)

Readings: *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1 (pp.226-230)

10/2 (F): Nichiren

Readings: *Sources of Japanese Tradition*, vol. 1 (pp.292-305)

WK8: Zen Buddhism

10/5 (M): Introduction

Watch *The Principles and Practice of Zen* (up to 0: 58:43)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxuHJ8JCXck>

10/7 (W): Zen Buddhist Traditions

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 5 (pp.102-105); *Sources of Japanese Tradition* vol. 1 (pp. 319-328)

10/9 (F): *Kōan* and Discussion of Dōgen's sayings

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WK9: Midterm Exam

10/12 (M) Veterans Day—No Class

10/14 (W): Midterm Exam

10/16 (F): TBA

WK10: Artistic Dimensions of Zen

10/19 (M): Introduction

Watch *Traditional Arts of Performing Arts in Japan*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Pd47utJkt8>

10/21 (W): Noh Drama

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 5 (pp.95-98, 105-121)

10/23 (F): Renga, Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement, Monochrome Painting and Rock Gardens

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 5 (121-139)

WK11: The Advent of Christianity

10/26 (M): Introduction

The Unique Beliefs of Japan's Clandestine Christians

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NCqJ07QHrI>

Watch *The Shimabara Rebellion Part 1* and *Part 2*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6J1peYpgsc0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xSAMk1qky_c

10/28 (W): Christianity Introduced to Japan

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 6

10/30 (F): On *Silence Due: the second draft of a research paper*

Readings: *Silence* by Endō Shūsaku

WK12: Living in the Floating World

11/2 (M): From 憂き世 to 浮き世

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 7 (pp.167-179)

11/4 (W): Chikamatsu Monzaemon and His Work

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 7 (pp.179-193); *Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu* (pp.39-56, 170-208)

11/6 (F): Matsuo Bashō and His Work

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 7 (pp.193-204)

WK 13: Maturity of the Tokugawa Era

11/9 (M): Signs of Modernity

Readings: *Japanese Culture* Chapter 8 (pp.205-222)

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11/11 (W): Signs of Modernity—Cont'd

11/13 (F): Final Research Paper Oral Presentations

WK14: Work on Final Research Papers

11/15 (M) Final Research Paper Oral Presentations

11/18 (W) Final Research Paper Oral Presentations

Final Research Papers Due 11/19 (R)—11/25 (W)