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Spring 2-1-2017

JPNS 411.01: Modern Japanese Writers and Thinkers

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JPNS 411 Modern Japanese Writers and Thinkers
—Contemporary Japanese Short Stories—

Time: MWF, 1:00-1:50 pm

Meeting Place: LA 244

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

Office: LA320

Office Hours: 10:00-11:00 am and 2:00-3:00 pm on Monday; 10:00-11:00 am on Tuesday,
11:00 am-12:00 pm on Friday; or by appointment

Prerequisite: JPNS 202 with a final grade of C- or above

Course Description

This course examines various aspects of Japanese culture and society by reading and interpreting modern/contemporary Japanese short stories. It builds on the foundation of linguistic skills and knowledge of culture that students have acquired in their first two years of language.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Read short stories with newly-learned vocabularies, expressions, and phrases;
- 2) Summarize the texts;
- 3) Interpret and critically analyze the texts;
- 4) Situate the texts into Japanese history and society;
- 5) Synthesize the findings and evaluate Japanese culture in a comparative context.

Texts

Hoshi, Shin'ichi 星新一. 1971. "Katano ue no hisho 肩の上の秘書." In *Bokko chan* ボッコちゃん. Tokyo: Shinchōsha.

Akutagawa, Ryūnosuke 芥川龍之介. 1997. "Rashōmon 羅生門." In *Rashōmon, Kumo no ito, Toshishun, hoka jūhachihen* 羅生門・蜘蛛の糸・杜子春他十八編. Tokyo: Bungei shunjū.

Murakami, Haruki 村上春樹. 1998. "Odoru Kobito 踊る小人." In *Hotaru, Naya o yaku, sono hoka no tanpen* 蛍・納屋を焼くその他の短編. Tokyo: Shinchō bunko.

Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies ed., 2013. *Kanji in Context Workbook* vol. 1. Tokyo: Japan Times.

Course Media

Moodle will be used. Students are responsible for obtaining updated course information by checking Moodle. Students are required to maintain all artifacts, which include presentation materials, review papers, and summaries of the readings.

Course Requirements and Grade Evaluations

1. Grammar Exercise Assignments (SLO #1)	10%
2. Vocabulary Quizzes (SLO #1)	10%
3. Summaries of the reading (SLO #2)	10%
4. Two Written Exams (SLO #3 and #4)	20%
5. Final Written Exam (SLO #3 and #4)	10%
6. Three Review Papers (SLO #5)	30%
<u>7. Attendance & Participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Grade Scale

A=90-100%, B=80-89%, C=70-79%, D=60-69%, F=below 59%

Grammar Exercise Assignments and Quizzes (See 1 & 2)

There will be 5 grammar exercise assignments and 10 vocabulary quizzes the instructor will provide a vocabulary list for each of the 10 quizzes.

Summaries of the readings (See 3)

As a homework assignment, students are required to make a brief summary of the text—either page-by-page or section-by-section. Each summary should include the identification of the characters, what they did, why and how they did it, etc.

Two Short Exams and Final Written Exam (See 4 & 5)

These written examinations test the students' comprehension of the texts.

Three Review Papers (See 6)

Students are required to write a review paper for each text (3 papers in total) in Japanese. They need to pick themes in each text and discuss Japanese cultural values, problems of Japanese society in a comparative context, and the implications of the writer's messages.

Paper #1: 「肩の上の秘書」の書評 (800 字)

Paper #2: 「羅生門」の書評 (900～1200 字)

Paper #3: 「踊る小人」の書評 (1000～1400 字)

ペーパーを書く時、語彙リストから最低 10 個の新しい表現や語彙を使い、ハイライトして提出。

評価の基準 1)文法や語彙の使用の正確性 (25%)

2) 表現の豊富性 (25%)

3) 話の論理性 (25%)

4) 内容の深さ (25%)

Attendance & Participation (See 7)

- Attendance is mandatory. *Student attendance will be noted at the beginning of each class.* Late arrival to class will be counted as 1/2 an absence. Early departure from class will be counted as one-day absence.
- Participation is a vital part of language acquisition and affects the students' grades. They can improve their participation and make the class more interesting by coming to class prepared; interacting with the instructor and classmates in Japanese; and asking questions, commenting on discussion topics, and volunteering answers and sharing ideas in group activities.
- While in class, students should refrain from chitchatting, studying for other classes, sleeping, and using cell phones/pagers. Repeated these activities will be also subject to points-reduction (10 percent of their final grades).
- It is highly recommended that students keep in contact with their classmates, when they miss the handouts and information given on the day in order to keep up-to-date.

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 **Official Dates and Deadlines for Spring Semester 2017.** (www.umt.edu/registrar/PDF/OfficialDatesDeadlinesSpring2017.pdf)
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 the **section V Academic Conduct in the University of Montana Student Conduct Code** (http://www.umt.edu/vpsa/policies/student_conduct.php).

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.
- **Disability Accommodations:** “Students with disabilities, faculty, and Disability Services for Students have rights and responsibilities related to reasonable modifications. Collaborative efforts among these three parties ensure equal access.”
“Faculty expects the student to initiate modification requests and provides reasonable modifications to ensure equal access. Faculty also refers students to Disability Services when necessary and refrains from retaliation against individuals advocating for accessibility.” (Cited from <http://www.umt.edu/dss/Faculty/default.php>)
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.

JPNS 411 Class Schedule (All Dates and Topics Are Subject to Change

週	日にち	授業内容	提出期限(DUE)	漢字 (Due)
1	1/23 (月) 1/25 (水) 1/27 (金)	イントロダクション 星新一「肩の上の秘書」 星新一「肩の上の秘書」	VOCAB QUIZ #1 Summary of the reading	
2	1/30 (月) 2/1 (水) 2/3 (金)	星新一「肩の上の秘書」 星新一「肩の上の秘書」 First Short Test	Grammar Exercise #1	pp.30-32
3	2/6 (月) 2/8 (水) 2/10 (金)	芥川龍之介「羅生門」 芥川龍之介「羅生門」 芥川龍之介「羅生門」	VOCAB QUIZ #2 First paper (Draft)	
4	2/13 (月) 2/15 (水) 2/17 (金)	芥川龍之介「羅生門」 芥川龍之介「羅生門」 芥川龍之介「羅生門」	VOCAB QUIZ #3 First paper (Final)	pp.34-35
5	2/20 (月) 2/22 (水) 2/24 (金)	Presidents Day--No Class 芥川龍之介「羅生門」 芥川龍之介「羅生門」	VOCAB QUIZ #4 Summary of the reading #2	
6	2/27 (月) 3/1 (水) 3/3 (金)	Second Short Test 村上春樹「踊る小人」 村上春樹「踊る小人」	Grammar Exercise #2 Second paper (Draft)	pp.36-37
7	3/6 (月) 3/8 (水) 3/10 (金)	村上春樹「踊る小人」 村上春樹「踊る小人」 村上春樹「踊る小人」	VOCAB QUIZ #5	
8	3/13 (月) 3/15 (水) 3/17 (金)	村上春樹「踊る小人」 村上春樹「踊る小人」 村上春樹「踊る小人」	VOCAB QUIZ #6 Second paper (Final)	pp.38-39
9	3/20 (月) 3/22 (水)	Spring Break Spring Break		

	3/24 (金)	Spring Break		
10	3/27 (月)	村上春樹「踊る小人」	VOCAB QUIZ #7	Summary of the reading #3
	3/29 (水)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		pp.40-41
	3/31 (金)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		Grammar Exercise #3
11	4/3 (月)	村上春樹「踊る小人」	VOCAB QUIZ #8	
	4/5 (水)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		
	4/7 (金)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		
12	4/10 (月)	村上春樹「踊る小人」	VOCAB QUIZ #9	
	4/12 (水)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		pp.42-43
	4/14 (金)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		
13	4/17 (月)	村上春樹「踊る小人」	VOCAB QUIZ #10	Summary of the reading #4
	4/19 (水)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		
	4/21 (金)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		Grammar Exercise #4
14	4/24 (月)	村上春樹「踊る小人」		Summary of the reading #5
	4/26 (水)	宮沢賢治「アメニモマケズ」		pp.44-45
	4/28 (金)	宮沢賢治「アメニモマケズ」		Grammar Exercise #5
15	5/1 (月)	宮沢賢治「アメニモマケズ」		Third Paper (Draft)
	5/3 (水)	宮沢賢治「アメニモマケズ」		pp.46-47
	5/5 (金)	Final Exam Review		

Final Written Exam: 5/11 (Th) 3:20—5:30 pm

The Third Paper Submission: 5/8 (M)