

EALC 415

Modern Japanese Literature in Translation:
Love, Gender and Sexuality in Modern Japan

Class meetings TTH 3-4:20
Room 207, Gregory Hall

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Course Description:

This course will focus on the themes of love, gender and sexuality in modern Japanese literature and popular culture. It will also explore the relationship between these themes and general concepts of “culture” and “history.” Is love a universal, immutable human emotion or is it one that varies with cultural tradition and according to historical period? What were Edo-period (1600-1868) conceptions of gender and sexuality? How were Western conceptions of love, gender and sexuality translated into Japanese? How did the Japanese reconfigure their traditional conceptions as the nation was transformed by modernization during the late 19th and early 20th centuries? The course offers students both a survey of major literary works from the modern period and a theoretical introduction to the field of cultural studies. Students wishing to obtain graduate credit for this course should register for 4 units.

Requirements:

This class will be a discussion and reading intensive course.

You will be required to complete all readings before coming to class, attend classes and to participate actively in discussions. Each of you will take turns making one or more short (5-10 minute) presentations to introduce the readings, provide historical background, and set forth a major discussion question. In addition, I plan to invite guest lecturers to give talks on topics related to themes of the course from time to time.

This course will use Webboard conference software to conduct an on-line discussion. Beginning in the second week of class, you will be expected to write a short reaction paper and to post it on the course Webboard every week. In reaction papers you should try to set forth your reactions or critical comments on the readings as well as ask a question that you would like to pose to the class. I expect each student to contribute actively to this forum and to submit comments by 10 PM on Monday of each week. You are also encouraged to read and respond to other students' responses. Please feel free to ask me questions on the Webboard and I will try to address your questions either in class or on line. You can access Webboard from <http://webboard.cites.uiuc.edu>

You are expected to write one final paper. The choice of paper topics is up to you. By the seventh week of the semester, you will be expected to decide on a research topic relating

to the theme of the course and to discuss this topic with me. The final paper, of 12-15 pages in length, must be submitted by May 10.

Required Texts

Michel Foucault *History of Sexuality* Vol 1 (NY: Vintage, 1979)

Ihara Saikaku, *The Great Mirror of Male Love* (Nanshoku Ôkagami) (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1990)

Kawabata Yasunari, *Snow Country*

Mishima Yukio, *Confessions of a Mask* (Kamen no kokuhaku)

Mori Ogai, *Vita Sexualis*

Jennifer Robertson, *Takarazuka: Sexual Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan* (Berkeley University of California Press, 1998)

Tanizaki Jun'ichiro, *Naomi* (Chijin no Ai)

Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen*

E-reserves

Chikamatsu, "The Love-Suicides of Amijima" from *Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu*, translated by Donald Keene (NY: Columbia University Press, 1998) 170-208

Cecilia Segawa Seigle, *Yoshiwara* (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1993) 129-203

A Boor's Tale (Denbu Monogatari) from *Male Colors: the Construction of Homosexuality in Tokugawa Japan* by Gary Leupp, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995) 205-217

Greg Pflugfelder *Cartographies of Desire* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999) 23-96, 235-285

Higuchi Ichiyo, "Child's Play" and "Muddy Waters" from *In the Shade of Spring Leaves* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981) 218-240 and 254-287

"Memorandum of Agreement from J.E. De Becker, *Yoshiwara: The Nightless City* (New York: Frederick Publication, 1960) 304-311

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "French Feminism in an International Frame" from *In Other Worlds* (New York: Routledge, 1988) 134-153

Izumi Kyoka, "The Holy Man of Mount Koya" from *Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature*, Ed. By J. Thomas Rimer and Van C. Gessel, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2005) 66-105

Julia Kristeva, *The Powers of Horror: an Essay on Abjection*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992) 1-31

Tayama Katai, "The Quilt" from *The Quilt and Other Stories by Tayama Katai* (Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1981) 35-96

Karatani Koji, "The Discovery of Interiority" and "Confession as a System" from *Origins of Modern Japanese Literature* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1994) 45-96

Miriam Silverberg "The Modern Girl as Militant" from *Recreating Japanese Women, 1600-1945* edited by Gail Lee Bernstein (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991) 239-266

John Dower, "Cultures of Defeat" from *Embracing Defeat: Japan in the Wake of World War II* (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1999) 121-167

Nosaka Akiyuki, "American Hijiki" *Contemporary Japanese Literature*, Ed by Howard Hibbett (NY: Knopf, 1977), 435-468

Oshima Nagisa, "Theory of Experimental Pornographic Film" and "Text of Plea" from *Cinema Censorship and the State* (Cambridge: MIT press, 1992) 251-286

Sharon Kinsella, "Cuties in Japan" from *Women, Media and Consumption in Japan*, ed by Lise Skov and Brian Moeran, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1995) 220-254

John Treat, "Yoshimoto Banana's *Kitchen*, or the Cultural Logic of Japanese Consumerism" from *Women, Media and Consumption in Japan*, ed by Lise Skov and Brian Moeran, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii, 1995) 274-298

Karen Kelsky, "Flirting with the Foreign: Interracial Sex in Japan's "International" Age," from Rob Wilson and Wimal Dissanayake, *Global/Local*, (Durham: Duke University Press, 1996) 173-192

Yamada Eimi, "When a Man Loves a Woman" in *Unmapped Territories: New Women's Fiction From Japan* (Seattle: Women in Translation, 1991) 69-83

Grading:

Class attendance and participation: 30%

Response papers: 30%

Oral presentations: 10%

Final paper: 30%

Note on Attendance: Two unexcused absences will result in an automatic lowering of the course grade. Excused absences will be granted if student provides a reasonable explanation beforehand or evidence of medical or other emergency after the fact.

Week 1: Introduction

1/17 Course Introduction

1/19 Defining Terms: Sexuality and its History

Foucault *History of Sexuality* Vol 1

Week 2: Edo Constructions of Love and Gender

1/24 Cecilia Segawa Seigle, *Yoshiwara* ER

1/26 Chikamatsu, *The Love-Suicides of Amijima* ER

Week 3: Edo Male-Male Sexuality

1/31 Ihara Saikaku *The Great Mirror of Male Love* 50-104, 125-150, 189-202, 219-225, 242-260

'A Boor's Tale' (Denbu Monogatari) 205-217

2/2 Greg Pflugfelder, *Cartographies of Desire* 23-96

- Week 4: Modern Reconfigurations of Tradition**
 2/7 Higuchi Ichiyo, "Child's Play" and "Troubled Waters" 218-240 and 254-287 ER
 "Memorandum of Agreement" from J.E. De Becker, *Yoshiwara: The Nightless City* 304-311ER
 2/9 Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, "French Feminism in an International Frame" 134-153 ER
- Week 5: Phantasmic Bodies and Poison Women**
 2/14 Izumi Kyoka, "The Holy Man of Mount Koya" 66-105 ER
 2/16 Julia Kristeva, *The Powers of Horror: an Essay on Abjection*, 1-31 ER
- Week 6: Naturalism and Confession**
 2/21 Tayama Katai, "The Quilt" 35-96 ER
 2/23 Karatani Koji, "The Discovery of Interiority" and "Confession as a System," 45-96 ER
- Week 7: Sexuality and the Science of Sexology**
 2/28 Mori Ogai, *Vita Sexualis*
 3/2 Greg Pflugfelder, 235-285 ER
- Week 8: Modernity and the New Woman**
 3/7 Tanizaki Junichiro, *Naomi* (Chijin no Ai) read 1-112
 Screening of Mizoguchi Kenji, *Sisters of Gion*
 3/9 *Naomi* read 113-237
 Miriam Silverberg "The Modern Girl as Militant" ER
- Week 9: Performance, Gender and Empire**
 3/14: Jennifer Robertson, *Takarazuka: Sexual Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan* (Berkeley University of California Press, 1998) 1-88
 Screening: "Dream Girls"
 3/16: Robertson, 89-138
- Spring Vacation read Kawabata Yasunari *Snow Country***
- Week 10: Reinventing Japan**
 3/28: Japan, the Beautiful and Kawabata Yasunari
 3/30: Kawabata Yasunari *Snow Country*
- Week 11: Occupation, Emasculation and Gender**
 4/4 John Dower, "Cultures of Defeat" 121-167 ER

Nosaka Akiyuki, "American Hijiki" 435-468 ER
4/6 NO CLASS AAS CONFERENCE

- Week 12: Pornography and the Limits of Expression**
4/11 Georges Bataille Selections from *Eroticism*, 11-39 ER
Oshima Nagisa, "Theory of Experimental Pornographic Film" and "Text of Plea" 251-286 ER
4/13 Screening; Oshima "In the Realm of the Senses"
- Week 13: Queer Japan: part 1**
4/18: The Mask of Confession
4/20: Mishima, *Confessions of a Mask*
Presentation by Keith Vincent
- Week 14: Queer Japan: part 2**
4/25: Sharon Kinsella, "Cuties in Japan" ER
Yoshimoto Banana Kitchen
4/27: John Treat, "Yoshimoto Banana's *Kitchen*, or the Cultural Logic of Japanese Consumerism" ER
Presentation by James Welker
- Week 15: Women on the Verge**
5/2 Karen Kelsky, "Flirting with the Foreign: Interracial Sex in Japan's "International" Age" 173-192 ER
Yamada Eimi, "When a Man Loves a Woman" 69-83 ER
Presentation by Akiko Takeyama

Final Paper Due May 10