

EAJ410  
READINGS IN MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE

春 '11, 火・木, 4:15 p.m. - 5:35 p.m.

Humanities 019

教授: Susanna Fessler

オフィス・アワー: 火・木 3:00-4:00

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授業の内容:

This is an advanced Japanese language course in which students will read and parse selected passages from major works of modern Japanese literature. Emphasis will be placed on improving both students' linguistic capabilities and their understanding of modern Japanese fiction. Class will be conducted primarily in Japanese. All readings will be in Japanese. Questions may be asked in English or Japanese at any time.

One of the main goals of this course is to help students become independent of structured textbooks and teach them how to launch out into the world of Japanese on their own. This means that emphasis will be placed on becoming familiar with important reference texts, and "doping out" difficult constructions. This is the last chance students will have to work on these skills in a structured environment--higher education does not offer "5th year Japanese." With this in mind, it is the instructor's goal to provide students with the Japanese survival skills they need before leaving SUNY.

In the course of the semester we will be reading works written in "complex" *kanji* (not simplified) and the old orthography of Japan, plus, if we have time, some unconventional texts to keep your mind limber. We will *not* be learning classical Japanese grammar, or *kanbun* 漢文.

Prerequisites: Students should have taken EAJ302 or have similar linguistic experience (study abroad in Japan, etc.) before taking this course.

必要な教科書:

- You will need a **GOOD** dictionary, not *Kanji and Kana* or anything else designed for beginners. I don't care which one you use, but choose one with which you feel comfortable. You will be using it a lot!
- The main text we will use for the first part of the semester is Natsume Sōseki's 夏目漱石 collection of short stories, *Yume Jūya* 夢十夜 ("Ten Nights of Dream"). This text is available online at [http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/799\\_14972.html](http://www.aozora.gr.jp/cards/000148/files/799_14972.html), but the online version has modernized *kanji* and the new orthography. I have provided a digitized version of the text in the complex *kanji* with the old orthography, as it originally appeared when it was published, on ERes. It is this version that I'd like you to print out and bring to class every day. This version is also entirely glossed with *furigana* and has accompanying grammar and vocabulary notes.
- Readings beyond *Yume Jūya* will also be posted on ERes.

### Testing & Grading:

- Attendance will be taken regularly; students are expected to attend class unless extenuating circumstances prevent it. Students are also expected to be active participants in this class, and to come to class prepared. Attendance is calculated by assigning a value of 1 to each day a student attends (or has an excused absence) and a value of 0 to each day a student is absent. There are *no allowed absences before a penalty is applied*. At the end of the semester, the student's sum is divided by the number of days that class met.
- Quizzes will be on the vocabulary and grammar covered in the recent lesson. For the first reading, *Yume Jūya*, we'll have a quiz after every other dream (for example, our first quiz will cover dreams 1 and 2). Depending on how quickly or slowly we read in class, the timing of the quizzes will vary. Once we get beyond *Yume Jūya*, we'll have a quiz for each reading.
- The examinations will cover translation of passages from the readings, plus vocabulary sections that ask for the reading of *kanji* and or the *kanji* themselves (in context). The final exam is not cumulative.

This course is A-E graded. Undergraduate regulations prohibit taking an upper-level course as an S/U graded course.

Attendance	20%
Quizzes	25%
Mid-term	25%
Final	30%

This syllabus is a contract. The instructor agrees to teach the topics listed below, and to grade you on the criteria listed above. The instructor considers a grade of "Incomplete" to be for emergencies (death in the family, extreme illness, etc.), not for students who fail to plan ahead. The instructor does not curve grades or give extra credit assignments. The grading scale is as follows: 93-100%=A; 90-92%=A-; 87-89%=B+; 83-86%=B; 80-82%=B-; 77-79%=C+; 73-76%=C; 70-72%=C-; 67-69%=D+; 63-66%=D; 60-62%=D-; 0-59%=E.

If you want to check on your performance at any point in the semester, feel free to come to office hours and we'll run through the numbers. If there are extenuating circumstances that you anticipate will unduly affect your grade, it is your responsibility to speak with the instructor IN ADVANCE.

### Schedule

A precise daily schedule is impossible because we can't anticipate the pace at which we'll get through each reading. Each day you should come to class having read the next few pages of the current lesson, having looked up unfamiliar vocabulary and also written down any questions you have about grammar, etc., so you can ask about them in class. In our class time we'll parse the lesson sentence by sentence, translating into English and discussing vocabulary and grammar.