

# Japanese Travel Literature

Fall 2020 – Course #9067

WF 1:10 p.m.-2:30 p.m. – Online Synchronous via Zoom

<https://albany.zoom.us/j/93403591530?pwd=NTdhNi9qR0VqMkdmanBMbnBPeFVadz09>

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Travel literature (*kikōbungaku* 紀行文学) is an old and important genre in Japanese literature. From the poems of the *Man'yōshū* 万葉集 to the travel diaries of today, Japanese writers have established a close connection between writing and landscape in a way that no other tradition in the world has. And, contrary to most reader expectations, appreciation of Japanese travel writing depends heavily on a familiarity with place.

## Required Textbooks:

- Instructor selected materials, available on Blackboard through Perusall. There will also be one textbook you'll need to purchase through Perusall. You will be prompted to do so when you log on. The cost is less than \$16.00.

## Course Structure:

- First, we will learn about the tradition of *kikōbungaku* (“travel literature”), its characteristics, history, canon formation, etc.
- Next, we will read works of travel literature in chronological order. Most locales “visited” will be *utamakura* 歌枕 (“poem pillows”) or *meisho* 名所 (“famous places”), as established in the literary tradition.

All readings will be in English, although original Japanese texts will be examined in part. No specific level of Japanese language ability is required. Class meetings will follow a lecture/seminar format on Zoom. Strictly speaking, a camera is not necessary but I encourage you to use one if possible because it helps facilitate discussion. This course can satisfy the seminar requirement in the East Asian Studies or Japanese major (see your academic advisor for details).

**Grading:** Your final grade in this course will be determined by (1) the quality and consistency of your preparation for class as determined by your Perusall score; (2) your performance on a mid-term and a final exam and (3) your final grade on the research paper. There will be **no** extra-credit assignments and **no** curving of grades. The grading scale is as follows: 97-100%=A+; 93-96%=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.

Perusall Score	30%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

10-Page Paper	30%
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### **Perusall Score:**

Perusall uses an algorithm to determine your engagement with the material. It looks at various factors, including accessing the reading, finishing the reading, engaging in discussions about the reading, but **most importantly**, the quality of your annotations on the reading. You do not need to understand everything you read—asking good questions about the reading also counts as a quality annotation.

Once the due date of any reading assignment has passed, you will be able to see your Perusall score. You can reply to comments or annotate the reading during the 24 hours after the deadline, but the credit you receive will be partial. For example, comments made three-quarters through the late annotation period will receive 25% of the credit they would have received if made on time.

### **Paper Assignment:**

The paper assignment has two deadlines: a first draft deadline and a final deadline. The instructor will carefully read, edit, comment on, and grade the first draft. The student can then either 1) take the grade or 2) choose to rewrite the paper to improve the grade. Grades are based on **both** the **writing** (i.e., grammar, organization, clarity, etc.) and the **content** of the paper. More details will be presented as the semester progresses.

### **Midterm and Final Exams:**

The midterm and the final exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. They are both open-book, open-note. The final exam will not be cumulative.

### **The Online Environment:**

A few words about technical difficulties: because this is a fully online course, there is a high possibility of technical difficulties at some point. If you experience them, do the following:

- Don't panic.
- E-mail me, so that I know you're having difficulty
- Make sure you are using Firefox—it's the best browser for Blackboard
- Take screen shots or videos (using a different device) that show the problem
- Sign out of Blackboard and sign in again

This class is relatively small, so I'm hoping that it can work fairly well on Zoom. In order to keep background noise to a minimum, please mute your microphone when you are not talking. Use the "raise hand" feature in Zoom, just like you'd raise your hand in the classroom, to interject or ask questions. At first it will undoubtedly take us some time to get the rhythm of class, but I'm sure we'll get there.

		<b>Topic(s)</b>	<b>Reading(s)</b>
8/26	W	Course Introduction	• None
8/28	F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The genre of travel literature in Japan</li> <li>• What is an <i>utamakura</i> 歌枕?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fessler: “A Brief History of Japanese Travel Writing”</li> <li>• Carter: “Travel as Poetic Practice” (selection) from <i>Journeys</i></li> </ul>
9/2	W	Japanese Geography: a quick primer of what you need to know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 5 in <i>Research in Japanese Sources</i></li> <li>• <i>Princeton Companion</i> Part 8</li> </ul>
9/4	F	Japanese Poetry: a quick primer of what you need to know (structure, development) <b>PART I</b>	• Miner: “Forms and Conventions”
9/9	W	Japanese Poetry: a quick primer of what you need to know (anthologies, important poets, etc.) <b>PART II</b>	• <i>Princeton Companion</i> Part 6
9/11	F	Ki no Tsurayuki 紀貫之 and <i>The Tosa Diary</i> とさにつき 土佐日記 (935年)	• <i>The Tosa Diary</i>
9/16	W	Nōin 能因 (988-1058) and Saigyō 西行 (1118-1190): fathers of travel poetry	• Heldt: “Saigyō’s Traveling Tale”
9/18	F	Koga (Minamoto) Michichika 源通親 (1149-1202)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Account of the Journey of the ex-Emperor Takakura to Itsukushima</i> たかくらいんいつくしまごこうき 高倉院 巖 島御幸記</li> </ul>
9/23	W	<i>Diary of the Priest Shinshō</i> しんしょうほうしにつき 信生法師日記 (1225年)	• <i>Diary of the Priest Shinshō</i>
9/25	F	<i>An Account of a Journey to the East</i> とうかんきこう 東関紀行 (1242年)	• <i>An Account of a Journey to the East</i>
9/30	W	The nun Abutsu 阿仏 and <i>The Diary of the Waning Moon</i> いぎよいにつき 十六夜日記 (1280年)	• <i>The Diary of the Waning Moon</i>
10/2	F	<i>Souvenir for the Capital</i> みやこ 都のつと (1352年)	• <i>Souvenir for the Capital</i>
10/7	W	<i>Account of a Journey to the Zenkōji</i> (Priest Gyōe) ぜんこうじきこう 善光寺紀行 (1465年)	• <i>Account of a Journey to the Zenkōji</i>
10/9	F	Midterm Examination	• None

10/14	W	The poet-priest Sōgi 宗祇 (1421-1502) and his works, <i>Shirakawa Kikō</i> 白河紀行 (1468 年) & <i>Tsukushi Michi no Ki</i> 筑紫道の記 (1480 年)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carter: “Sōgi in the East Country”</li> <li>• Kato: “Pilgrimage to Dazaifu”</li> </ul>
10/16	F	Matsuo Bashō (1644-1694) 松尾芭蕉, Japan’s greatest travel writer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Narrow Road to the Deep North</i> おく ほそみち 奥の細道 (1702)</li> </ul>
10/21	W	Arii Shokyū (1714-1781) 有井諸九 and her <i>Record of an Autumn Wind</i> あきかぜ き 秋風の記 (1771)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Record of an Autumn Wind</i></li> </ul>
10/23	F	Travel in the Early Modern Age: the Birth of Tourism and the “reinvention” of travel writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaporis: “Development of a Travel Industry” (selection)</li> <li>Yonemoto: “Annotating Japan”</li> </ul>
10/28	W	Kaibara Ekiken (1630-1714) 貝原益軒	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selections from <i>A Reader in Edo Period Travel</i></li> </ul>
10/30	F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Furukawa Koshōken (b. 1726) 古川古松軒</li> <li>• Tachibana Nankei (b. 1753) 橘南谿</li> <li>• Sugae Masumi (1754-1827) 菅江真澄</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolitho: “Travelers’ Tales”</li> <li>• <b>First Drafts of Papers Due Today</b></li> </ul>
11/4	W	Yasumi Roan (active 1810-1825) 八隅芦庵	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaporis: “Caveat Viator”</li> </ul>
11/6	F	Meiji Japanese in the West めいじおうべいきこうぶんがく 明治欧米紀行文学	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fessler: “Early Overseas Travel Writing”</li> </ul>
11/11	W	Tokutomi Roka (1868-1927) 徳富蘆花	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fessler: “Autumn in Ryōmo”</li> </ul>
11/13	F	Anesaki Masaharu (1873-1949) 姉崎正治	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selections from <i>Flowers of Italy</i> 花つみ日記</li> </ul>
11/18	W	Yosano Akiko (1878-1942) 与謝野晶子	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beichman: “Akiko Goes to Paris”</li> <li>• <b>Final Drafts of Papers Due Today</b></li> </ul>
11/20	F	Dazai Osamu (1909-1948) 太宰治	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selections from <i>Return to Tsugaru</i> 津軽</li> </ul>

The final exam will be held in accordance with the university final exam schedule.