

565:380 Contemporary Japanese Literature and Film

Spring 2012

M 2:50-4:10pm (Scott 116); W 2:50-4:10pm (Scott 101)

Instructor: Satoru Saito

Office Hours: MW 11:30am-1pm (Scott Hall 338)

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Overview

This course examines the fictional representations of contemporary Japan from the 1980s to the present. It will consider the significance of a variety of works not only in the ways they reflect the preoccupations and conditions of contemporary Japanese society but also in the ways they function to play an active role in shaping the society in which they were produced, circulated, and consumed. While this course serves as a continuation course for two courses already offered by the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (565:242) and Japanese Film (565:350), the students are not required to have taken these courses prior to taking this course.

Requirements

4 response papers (2 pages, 7.5% each)	30%
2 tests (15% each)	30%
Final paper (8-10 pages)	30%
Class attendance and performance	10%

Note on Academic Integrity: You are expected to uphold the highest level of academic integrity in this class. For details, please see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/>. I will also be glad to discuss with you any concerns or questions you have on this issue.

Note on absences: Students are expected to attend all classes; if you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/> to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me.

Required Texts

Murakami Haruki, *A Wild Sheep Chase* (ISBN: 037571894X)

Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen* (ISBN: 0802142443)

Yoshimoto Banana, *Asleep* (ISBN: 0802138209)

Murakami Ryû, *69* (ISBN: 4770030134)

Murakami Haruki, *Dance, Dance, Dance* (ISBN: 0679753796)

Kirino Natsuo, *Out* (ISBN: 1400078377)

Nakano Hirori, *Train Man* (ISBN: 0345498690)

***We will also watch 6 films during the semester. The copies of screened films will be placed on reserve at the Media Center in Douglass Library.

Schedule (subject to change)

1/18 Introduction

UNIT I: Archetypes of Contemporary Japanese Fictions

1/23 Morita Yoshimitsu, *The Family Game* (1983)
 1/25 *The Family Game*, cont'd
 1/30 Murakami Haruki, *A Wild Sheep Chase* (1982)
 2/1 RESPONSE #1 DUE; discussion

UNIT II: Traumas of Modern Existence

2/6 Kore-eda Hirokazu, *Maboroshi* (1995)
 2/8 *Maboroshi*, cont'd
 2/13 Yoshimoto Banana, "Kitchen" (1988) from *Kitchen*, "Night and Night's
 Travelers" (1989) and "Asleep" (1989) from *Asleep*
 2/15 RESPONSE #2 DUE; discussion

UNIT III: Stories of Youth

2/20 Kitano Takeshi, *Kids Return* (1996)
 2/22 *Kids Return*, cont'd
 2/27 Murakami Ryû, *69* (1987)
 2/29 RESPONSE #3 DUE; discussion

3/5 Review
 3/7 TEST #1

3/12 NO CLASS: Spring Break
 3/14 NO CLASS: Spring Break

UNIT IV: The Japanese Fantastic Revisited

3/19 Film screening, TBD
 3/21 Film screening, TBD
 3/26 Murakami Haruki, *Dance, Dance, Dance* (1988)
 3/28 RESPONSE #4 DUE; discussion

UNIT V: Women and Horror in Japanese Society

4/2 Nakata Hideo, *Ringu* (1998)
 4/4 *Ringu* cont'd
 4/9 Kirino Natsuo, *Out* (1997)
 4/11 RESPONSE #5 DUE; discussion

UNIT VI: Postmodern Subjectivities and Identities

4/16 Nakashima Tetsuya, *Kamikaze Girls* (2004)

4/18 *Kamikaze Girls*, cont'd

4/23 Nakano Hitori, *Train Man* (2004)

4/25 Discussion and review

4/30 TEST #2

5/9 FINAL PAPER DUE at noon in my office (Scott 338) or my mailbox (Scott 330)