

Instructor: Christopher Smith  
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Office Hours: TR 2:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment

### **Course Description**

JPT 3330 is an examination of early modern Japanese literature, covering literature from what is known as the Edo period in Japan, 1600-1868. This is an important period in the development of Japanese literature and culture, when print technology made literary participation widely available to commoners for the first time, and urbanization created vibrant urban theatrical forms. The course will take an in-depth look at important authors and texts during this period. In addition to reading specific texts, students will develop the skills to analyze early modern Japanese literature and conduct meaningful research on it. All readings are in English; no knowledge of Japanese is required.

### **Required Textbooks**

The following book is available at the UF bookstore. It is required.

Shirane, Haruo Ed. *Early Modern Japanese Literature*

All other readings will be posted on Canvas (e-Learning).

### **Class Policies**

#### **Absences**

There will be no makeups for missed exams without a valid, documented excuse (e.g., a doctor's note, jury summons, etc.). You are allowed three unexcused absences without question. After that, each additional unexcused absence will result in a 1% drop in your final grade. An unexcused absence will, of course, result in a zero for your class participation grade for that day.

#### **Late Work**

Essays are due at the assigned time and date. Late essays will be marked down 10% for every 24 hours late (i.e., if an essay is due at 11:55 P.M. on Monday, submissions between 11:56 P.M. Monday and 11:55 P.M. Tuesday will be marked down 10%, submissions between 11:56 P.M. Tuesday and 11:55 P.M. Wednesday will be marked down 20%, and so on).

## Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty, either in the form of cheating or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. Any proven instances may result in an automatic grade of "E" for the entire course and WILL result in referral to the Dean of Students Office.

Examine the UF honor code at <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>: particularly the following:

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

"On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

VIOLATIONS OF THE STUDENT HONOR CODE.

E. Plagiarism. A Student must not represent as the Student's own work all or any portion of the work of another. Plagiarism includes but is not limited to:

1. Stealing, misquoting, insufficiently paraphrasing, or patch-writing.
2. Self-plagiarism, which is the reuse of the Student's own submitted work, or the simultaneous submission of the Student's own work, without the full and clear acknowledgment and permission of the Faculty to whom it is submitted.
3. Submitting materials from any source without proper attribution.
4. Submitting a document, assignment, or material that, in whole or in part, is identical or substantially identical to a document or assignment the Student did not author.

To avoid common issues remember: when in doubt, cite.

- Words taken verbatim from another source, whether a whole paragraph, a sentence, or part of a sentence, must be placed in quotes and cited. Changing a few words here and there does not make it your original work.
- If you take an idea from another source, you should acknowledge your borrowing in the text of the essay and provide a citation.

## Accommodations

Students who need accommodations in class or on exams are warmly encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office. See <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/> for more info. You are welcome to visit me during office hours to discuss your needs, but note that I need authorization from the DSO to make accommodations.

## Technology Policy

This class is "tech friendly," but devices are expected to be used to read PDFs, take notes, or look up information. Non-class-related activities, especially those that distract your classmates, like texting, checking social media, or playing games will result in a zero for your class participation grade that day.

## **Grading**

Grades will be calculated with the following weights. See below for descriptions:

Reading Journals: 15%

Class Participation: 15%

Discussion Leader Role: 15%

Essays: 30% (15% Each)

Exams: 25% (Midterm 10%, Final 15%)

## **Assignments**

### **Reading Journals**

You must submit a reading journal (on Canvas) for each class day (Note: one per class day, not class session, so just one for double sessions). You should jot down about two paragraphs that reflect on the readings. You are free to write what you want, as long as it deals with the day's assignment. This is not formal writing, so you don't need to have a thesis or avoid first person or anything like that. Write in your own style about what you thought was interesting about the reading/viewing: what stood out to you, what you had questions about, random thoughts you had, whatever. The only stipulation is that it should be a *thoughtful* reflection on the day's assignment, not just a reaction. In other words, it's fine to write about your reaction to the text (you liked or disliked it, it made you happy or sad), but don't stop there: think about *why* you reacted that way. What feature of the text made you feel that way, and why? Write about how you are processing the reading. Due before class each day. This is graded on completion: as long as you submit a reasonably thoughtful reflection of the required length, you get 100%.

### **Class Participation**

In this type of class it is vital that you come to class prepared and participate in class discussions. To receive a full class participation grade you should come to class prepared to fully participate. That means engaging the assigned texts with active reading, taking notes or highlighting as necessary. If it is evident you have not done the reading or are not prepared to participate fully in the class you will receive a grade of zero for the day. (Hint: answering a question with "I dunno" or "I don't remember reading that" tells me you are not prepared!) Remember, an unexcused absence automatically results in a zero for your participation grade for that day. See the [Absence Policy](#) above.

### **Discussion Leader Role**

Each class session (double days count as two class sessions) will have a student discussion leader. You must sign up for **six** class sessions (unless the enrollment numbers change). Sign up in Canvas by editing the class schedule. Your job as discussion leader is not formal or onerous. There is no presentation to give or research to do. Instead, your job is to spend some time thinking more deeply about that reading

than the others, and be in a position to lead the class discussion. You are not teaching the class, but if class discussion falters you should be prepared to step in with some insights and questions in order to get it going again. To that end you should write about ½ to 1 page of “Things to Talk About” and bring it into class. You will turn this in at the end of class, but it is not a formal essay at all. It should be a series of notes to yourself about things you can bring up in class about the text to spark class discussion. Ideally you will have several discussion questions prepared: open ended questions with no easy answers that will foster discussion among your classmates.

## **Essays**

You must submit two essays, each 4 double-spaced pages, on the assigned due dates. These are persuasive essays that present a thesis about a text and defend it by citing evidence in the form of quotations from that text. At least two scholarly secondary sources are required for each. Scholarly sources are books from academic presses or articles from academic journals. Encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, personal websites, and organizational websites are not scholarly sources. Neither are unpublished theses or papers, although exceptions are possible. You should cite other scholars *making an argument that supports your argument*, not random or well-known facts. See the separate “Essay Tips” handout.

Use Chicago citation format.

One essay should be about a work of prewar literature, and the other should be about a work of postwar literature. There are no assigned topics. You should pick one of the class readings you wish to examine further and develop a thesis about it. Keep in mind, however, that the main grading criteria are a) is your thesis strong? and b) do you successfully persuade your reader of your thesis? You must prove a strong thesis that *analyzes* the text and uncovers something new about it.

If you are a major in LLC and want to combine these two essays into your 10-page qualifying essay, please let me know.

## **Exams**

There will be a midterm and a final exam, taken in class, closed book and closed notes. The final will be cumulative. The exams will test whether you have absorbed *lecture* content such as critical terms and textual themes. They will not test analytical ability.