

Instructor: Christopher Smith
Office: Pugh 325
Phone: (352) 294-3938
Email: csmith2@ufl.edu
Office Hours: TR 2:00pm-3:00pm or by appointment

Course Description

JPT 3702 is a survey of Japanese *manga* (comics) and *anime* (animation) from their beginnings in the middle of the 20th century to the present. Although manga and anime are enjoyed by an international audience, this course will explore them as a Japanese medium and critically examine how they interact with ideology and history in Japan. In addition to reading specific texts, students will develop the skills to analyze manga and anime, and conduct meaningful research on manga and anime. This class takes a literature/cultural studies approach, and therefore does not focus on sociological issues such as fan communities or issues of globalization and translation. All readings are in English; no knowledge of Japanese is required.

Required Textbooks

There are no physical textbooks. However, there are several required ebooks:

Key: [K]= Kindle book link [G]= Google book link

Tezuka, Osamu *Astro Boy Vol. 1&2* Dark Horse [\[K\]](#)[\[G\]](#)

Tezuka, Osamu *Phoenix Vol. 1* VIZ Media [\[K\]](#)[\[G\]](#)

Tezuka, Osamu *Phoenix Vol. 3* VIZ Media [\[K\]](#)[\[G\]](#)

Tezuka, Osamu *Phoenix Vol. 7* VIZ Media [\[K\]](#)[\[G\]](#)

Tezuka, Osamu *Phoenix Vol. 8* VIZ Media [\[K\]](#)[\[G\]](#)

Kishimoto, Masashi *Naruto Vol. 1* VIZ Media [\[K\]](#)[\[G\]](#)

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:

Blog Project: 15%

Class Participation: 20%

Discussion Leader Role: 15%

Exams: 30% (15% each)

Essay: 20%

Assignments

Blog Project

In this class you will create and maintain a Tumblr blog. The goal of the blog project is to give you a personal space to write informally about the class readings and viewings. This is like the reflection papers many classes use, except that you have ownership of your own writings collected on your blog, so you have a kind of journal of your thoughts as you go through the course. You can also see other students’ posts and comment on them, and they can see and comment on yours.

You should publish a blog post every day *before* class, by midnight the night before, about that day’s reading or viewing. Each post should be roughly two paragraphs long, and contain at least one relevant image.

Other than that, you are free to write what you want, as long as it deals with the day’s assignment. This isn’t 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? This will serve as a launching point for the class discussion.

This assignment is graded on completion. As long as you post something of a reasonable length that engages with the text thoughtfully somehow, and post it on time, you get 100%.

You must also post at least one thoughtful comment on a group member's blog post each day *before* class (at least one hour before) to get full credit.

Note that this is your own blog that belongs to you: you can keep using it after this class, and you can certainly post other things to it besides class stuff. Just make sure your classmates can find the class posts and that the material is appropriate for class!

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 text/video 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 policy on [Absences](#) 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 **four** 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/viewing 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. You should also read your classmates' blog posts to get an idea of what they are thinking about the sessions' reading/viewing.

Essay

You must submit one essay, 6 pages, double-spaced, in 12-point type. This is a [persuasive](#) essay that presents a thesis about a text and defends it by citing evidence in the form of quotations from that text. At least three [scholarly secondary sources](#) are required. 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. Use Chicago citation format.

The goal of this paper is to give you a high degree of freedom to explore topics and works that interest you, using the knowledge and analytical skills you have learned in class. Therefore you can *pick your own work of manga or anime* that you wish to write about. You can choose to further examine one of the works we have gone over in class, or some other work of your own choosing. 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. Keep that in mind as you think about what you want to write about.

If you are a major in LLC and want to turn this 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.