Aims of the Course

This course explores the world of Japanese visual culture through historical studies of pre-modern handscroll paintings, images from theaters (noh and kabuki), and modern film including anime, as a way of understanding the strategies of pictorial media. We study Japan's pictorial traditions from the early-medieval illustrated handscrolls (emakimonos), investigating gendered pictorial tradition between male paintings (otoko-e) and female paintings (onna-e). We then look at the commercial and popular culture aspect from modern woodblock prints and books (ukiyo-e), such as the Hokusai Manga. In the second half of the course, we analyze theatricality of noh and kabuki theaters as performing spectacles, and modern film including anime, focusing on the issues of sexuality, the genres of mecha, as well as romantic comedy, and the erotic and grotesque.
Learning Objectives:
- To familiarize with visual arts and cultures of Japan
- To develop an ability to analyze, interpret, and write on visual works of art
- To learn to contextualize cultural and historical significance of Japanese literature and visual culture.
- Critical thinking ability in response to scholarly literature.

Expectations:
- Learn Japanese history, aesthetic concepts, and visual and literary cultures
- Clear writing skill
- Academic research skill
- Collaboration toward group work

Requirements and Distribution of Grading
- Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than three classes (except for an emergency, substantiated by your advisor or dean in writing) will result in lower grade.

- Completion of assignments as follows:
  - Three (3) Take-home exams: (3 x 25%)
    - Questions are based on readings and lectures.
    - Further outside research is expected.
    - Submit the exam with proper citation and foot(or end)notes.
    - Academic honesty: Take-home exams are strictly independent and individual works; no exchange of notes or answers among classmates allowed. Violating students will be reported to the Dean of Students.
  - Group project on Japanese Media: (25%)
    - Make a 4-minute video (animated slides show). Imagine you are making an academic Youtube video that introduces Japanese narrative art.
    - Present your video in class.
    - Turn in your individual assessment report (8 pages).
    - Q & A at the presentation counts.

Online sources through TISCH Library online database
1. ARTSTOR (image database)
2. JSTOR (scholarly articles)
3. OXFORD ART ONLINE (art history dictionary/encyclopedia)

Other Helpful external websites
- Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History, Metropolitan Museum of Art, NYC
  [http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/world-regions/#/06/World-Map](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/world-regions/#/06/World-Map)

- A to Z Photo Dictionary: Japanese Buddhist Statuary (You may look up this site but all the facts must be double-checked with academic sources before citing in papers)
**Readings:**

For weekly readings, see Schedule. No course books but selections from on-line sites (JSTOR, Project Muse, and SCRIBD).

**Some helpful books at Tisch: They are not yet on reserve. Please do not check out.**

- PN212 .B313 1997 Mieke Bal. *Narratology:
- ND1052 .M884 1983 Miyeko Murase. *Emaki, narrative scrolls from Japan*
- ND1053 .M79 Miyeko Murase. *Iconography of the Tale of Genji*
- ND1053 .T46 1973 E. Ten Grotenhuis. *Narrative picture scrolls*
- ND1053 .S413 Dietrich Seckel. *Emakimono*
- GR340 .F67 2009 Michael D. Foster. *Pandemonium and parade*
- PS1916 .B8 Kenneth Rexroth. *The Buddhist writings of Lafcadio Hearn*
- ND1053 .M79 1983 Miyeko Murase. *Iconography of the Tale of Genji*
- PL794.8.U34 E5 1974 Ueda, Akinari *Ugetsu monogatari*
- ND1059.T655 G58 Penelope Mason *History of Japanese Art*
- ND1052 .S54 1982 Yoshiaki Shimizu *Genji, the world of a prince*
- DS856.72.S9 B67 Robert Borgen. *Sugawara no Michizane…*
- DS834.64 M64 1988 Ivan Morris. *The nobility of failure*
- N7350 .M26 1993 James H. Sanford *Flowing traces*
- NE1322 .M44 1986 Julia Meech-Pekarik *The world of the Meiji print*
- NX584.A1 B57 2001 Nicole Rousmaniere. *Births and rebirths in Japanese art*
- GN635.J2 A55 2006 Anne Allison *Millennial monsters*
- ND1059.6.G4 G4 *Genji monogatari emaki; Nezame monogatari emaki*
- ND1059.6.B25 T64 *Ban Dainagon ekotoba*
- ND1053.4 K5 *Kibi no Otodo nittō emaki*
- ND1059.6.S5 S54 *Shigisan engi*
- ND1059.6.C46 C46 *Chōjū jinbutsu giga*
- ND1053.3 G34 *Gaki zōshi, Jigoku zoshi*
- ND1059.6.H44 H44 *Heiji monogatari emaki*
- ND1053.4 K43 1978 *Kegon engi*
- ND1059.6.K57 K57 *Kitano Tenjin engi*
- ND1053 .I83 1979 *Ise monogatari emaki*
- ND1053.4 .T33 1979 *Taima mandara engi*
SCHEDULE (subject to change)

**September 8**  
**Introduction**

Those who are not much familiar with a history of Japanese art, the following sources are helpful. Peruse them for your background information.

- Mason, Penelope. *History of Japanese Art.*

**September 10**  
**Traditional Storytelling Format: Illustrated Hand-scrolls**


**September 15**  
**Miracles: Monk Myōren on Mt. Shigi**


**September 17**  
**Nationalism and Caricature: Ambassador Kibi’s Travel**


   a. Study and compare four scrolls (noted in Japanese as 甲, 乙, 丙, 丁)
September 22       Entangled Love Affairs: Shining Prince Genji


   **Recommended:**


September 24       Gender and Heian culture


September 29       Yukio Lippit Lecture: 5:30 pm at Tisch 307?

- Class will be held as usual from 4:30pm in our regular classroom.


- Around 5:15pm, the class will move to Tisch 307.
  
  o Yukio Lippit lecture: “Overcoming Japonisme: The Paintings of Tawaraya Sotatsu”


* Your questions to Professor Lippit are highly encouraged and noted.
October 1, 6, 8

Women, Passion, and Buddhism

- Take-home exam #1 question will be hand out in class on October 1.
  - Format instruction will also be given on October 1.

- Paper is due on October 13 in class.


October 13

Supernatural Beings

- Take-home exam #1 is due on October 13 in class.


October 15   Ghost Stories and Woodblock Prints by Hokusai


October 17 (Saturday)  10:00 am   MFA VISIT

Note that we meet on Saturday. This replaces the class on November 24.

October 20   Order of Narrative Reading


    Recommended: Foucault, Michel. *Order of Things*. “Preface” and “1. Las Meninas.” [TRUNK]

October 22, 27, 29   Period Films


Film: *Rashomon* (1950), directed by Akira Kurosawa
http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/node/113254


Film: *The 47 Ronin*, Part 1 and 2 (1941), directed by Kenji Mizoguhci

Film: *Seven Samurai* (1954), directed by Akira Kurosawa
http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/video/seven-samurai-1


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**November 3 Double Suicide**

- Take-home exam #2 question will be handed out.
- Take-home #2 is due on November 12 in class.

Film: *Double Suicide* (1969), directed by Masahiro Shinoda
http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/node/113244


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**November 5 Debate: Ideals, Duty, and Honor**

Class will be divided into two group debates (four groups total). Subjects for debate will be given at the end of class on Nov. 3.

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**November 10 No class (Wednesday schedule; Veterans Day)**

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**November 12, 17 Postmodern Japan and Environment**

Film: FDV457 *Akira* (1987), written and directed by Katsuhiro Otomo


World of Miyazaki Hayao and his anime


No class (Substitute the class on Saturday, October 17)

Group Presentations

Class will be divided into several groups (three to four students in each group)

- Final take-home exam question will be handed out on December 3.
- Exam is due on Monday, December 14 via email.

West and East, and wrap up of the course

Film: *Tampopo* (Dandelion) (1986), directed by Juzo Itami