FAH200: SEMINAR
Japanese Narrative Pictures: Heroes, Heroines, Ghosts and Demons
Instructor: Prof. Ikumi Kaminishi
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Contact: (617) 627-2424 or ikumi.kaminishi@tufts.edu
Office hours: Thursdays 10:00-12:00 am or by appointment

Spring 2015 Room: Art History Seminar Room Time: Wed. 1:30-4:00pm

Aims of the Course

The seminar investigates the relationships between Japanese narratives stories and illustrations. The particular media of interest for the course are medieval emakimono (illustrated handscrolls), early-modern picture albums and prints, theater (noh, kabuki, joruri), modern manga, and contemporary animation (anime). Through examination of these media, we study the effects of “medieval” or “modern” cinematographic techniques. We select stories that represent specific genre: love romance (Tale of Genji, Zennyo), historical adventure (Minister Kibi in China), spiteful ghosts (Kitano Tenjin), demons (Earth Spider, Shuten Doji), spirits (Mononoke, Spirited Away), film (Rashomon, Ugetsu), and futuristic (Akira). For critical background, seminar readings include theories of narrative, gender, and film.

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:

- Active participation in class discussions (leading discussions will be assigned)
- Learn Japanese history, aesthetic concepts, and visual and literary cultures
- Clear writing skill
- Academic research skill
- Timely completion of assignments (Late papers will be downgraded by a third of a full grade each day.)
- Collaboration toward group work
- Mandatory class attendance

Requirements and Distribution of Grading

1. **Weekly class participation and assigned discussion leadership 15%**
   Attendance is mandatory. Missing a class (except for an emergency substantiated by your advisor or dean in writing) will result in lower grade. If missed more than two classes, the student may be asked to withdraw. Comments on readings and suggestions for class discussion are expected to be posted on the course TRUNK by Monday night.

2. **A short group project and presentation: 15%**
   Topics noted in the schedule, Feb. 18. The group must submit a 5-page paper. Participation in Q & A with other presentations counts

3. **A long group project: Make a 4-minute video: 30%**
   Prepare a short video (animated slides allowed). Consider you are making an academic Youtube video that introduces Japanese narrative art. Present your video in class on April 1. Turn in the group paper (5 pages). Q & A.

4. **Seminar paper: 40% (undergraduates, 13-15 pages; graduates, 18-20 pages)**
   The topic of the paper must be relevant to the subject and issues discussed in class. By February 11, submit your paper proposal, which states your thesis, objective, method of study, and preliminary bibliography (typewritten, one page plus separate bibliography).

**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

- 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.**

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<tr>
<th>Call Number</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>PN212 .B313 1997</td>
<td>Mieke Bal.</td>
<td>Narratology: Emaki, narrative scrolls from Japan</td>
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<td>ND1053 .O36 1962</td>
<td>Hideo Okudaira.</td>
<td>The Tenjin Engi Scrolls</td>
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<td>Michael D. Foster.</td>
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<td>Kenneth Rexroth.</td>
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<td>Miyeko Murase.</td>
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<td>Ueda, Akinari</td>
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<td>Yoshiaki Shimizu</td>
<td>Genji, the world of a prince</td>
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<td>DS856.72.S9 B67</td>
<td>Robert Borgen.</td>
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<td>DS834 .M64 1988</td>
<td>Ivan Morris.</td>
<td>The World of the Shining Prince</td>
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<td>N7350 .M26 1993</td>
<td>Penelope Mason</td>
<td>Manga: sixty years of Japanese comics</td>
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<td>Paul Gravett.</td>
<td>The western scientific gaze...</td>
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<td>N7353.5 .S4 1996</td>
<td>Timon Sereeceh.</td>
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<td>James H. Sanford</td>
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<td>NE1322 .M44 1986</td>
<td>Julia Meech-Pekarik</td>
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<td>NX584.A1 B57 2001</td>
<td>Nicole Roussanier.</td>
<td>Millenial monsters</td>
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<td>GN635.J2 A55 2006</td>
<td>Anne Allison</td>
<td>Genji monogatari emaki; Nezame monogatari emaki</td>
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<td>Kitano Tenjin engi</td>
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<td>ND1059.6.K57 K57</td>
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SCHEDULE (subject to change)

January 14  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.

January 21  No class (Tufts Monday; Martin Luther King Day)

January 28  All about Genji: A Heian emakimono (“illustrated handscrolls”)


   [For more on this subject]
   

   Artwork: Illustrated Tale of Genji

   Homework: Know the basic outline of the Tale of Genji.

February 4  Gendered Heian Arts

- Find out the basic concept of Buddhist “Four Noble Truths” before reading Yoda’s article.


Artworks: *Genji, Shigisan engi emaki; Ban Dainagon ekotoba*

**February 11  Elite Courtiers and Tragic Heroes**


Artworks: *Minister Kibi’s Trip to China*, Kitano Tenjin egngi

**February 18  Part 1: Group presentations on Religion and Supernatural Beings**

Artworks for the group report:

1. *Hell scrolls*
2. *Shutendōji*, the chief of *oni*
3. *Giant Spider (Tsuchigumo)*
4. *Onmyōji* (2001 film; directed by Yojiro Takita)

To get started, these articles may be of help. Research other sources for more.


**Part 2:  Same story, different media**


February 25  Modern film that capture the past: Rashomon and Ugetsu

Group presentation paper due


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


Film: Ugetsu (1953), directed by Kenji Mizoguchi
http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/node/113270


March 4  Albums, Woodblock Prints, and Printed books


Further reading recommendation:

• Foster, Michael D. *Pandemonium and parade*


**March 11  World of Miyazaki Hayao and his anime**


**March 18  No class (Spring Recess)**

**March 25  Mixed theaters**

Film: *Double Suicide* (1969), directed by Masahiro Shinoda

http://tufts.kanopystreaming.com/node/113244


Takarazuka all-women’s theater:


April 1 Group Presentations: Video on Japanese media on narrative art

Media of interest:
1. Handscrolls (emakimono) and/or hanging scrolls (kakejiku)
2. Woodblock prints and printed books (ehon, nishiki-e)
3. Manga
4. Anime

April 8 Postmodern Japan

Group presentation paper due


April 15 and 22 Individual presentations (Papers due on April 29, 4:00 pm)