JWP 5133-U01
Advanced Reading and Translating Japanese Literature

Spring 2015
MW 3 - 4:15pm in GL 245

Instructor: Dr. Hitomi Yoshio
Office: DM 498A
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11am-1pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course offers graduate students the opportunity to engage with a wide range of literary texts in the original Japanese language, spanning across genres such as essays, short stories, poetry, lyrics, and experimental prose. In the process of closely reading and analyzing the texts, we will conduct partial translations of selected passages, examine existing English translations read side-by-side with their Japanese sources, and work on new translations of previously untranslated texts. We will also read theories and essays on translation that address some of the fundamental issues at stake in the act of translation. Ultimately, you will gain an understanding of translation as a linguistic trade that cannot be reduced to textbook definitions of grammar points or dictionary definitions of words, but rather involves a whole host of culturally, socially, and politically circumscribed decisions about how literature makes meaning.

Prerequisite: JPN 2201 "Intermediate Japanese II" or the permission of the instructor.

OBJECTIVES
1) Reading for nuance and accuracy, and understanding grammatical structure.
2) Cultivating the practical linguistic expertise necessary to translate from Japanese to English.
3) Learning the theory and fundamental techniques of literary translation.
4) Fostering awareness of the wide variety of linguistic choices and dilemmas the translator confronts in the process of reworking a Japanese text into English.
5) Acquiring significant exposure to Japanese literature in the original language.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
On the completion of this course, students should be able to:
1) Employ appropriate tools and sources for reading and understanding authentic material in the original language.
2) Analyze styles, structures, and thematic concerns of contemporary Japanese writing.
3) Acquire the methods and techniques of literary translation.
4) Understand the multiplicity and diversity of contemporary Japanese culture through exposure to various genres of writing.
COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Michael Emmerich, ed. *Read Real Japanese Fiction: Short Stories by Contemporary Writers*. Kodansha USA. Includes notes, dictionary, and CD.

Janet Ashby, ed. *Read Real Japanese Essays: Contemporary Writings by Popular Authors*. Kodansha USA. Includes notes, dictionary, and CD.

* There will be additional readings to be handed out or posted online.

TRANSLATION THEORY


COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1. Attendance & Class Participation
Regular reading, attendance, and class participation are required. Since this class consists of careful analysis and active discussions and translations of each week's readings, it is essential that students come to class having read all of the assigned materials carefully and be prepared to engage actively in the class activities.

2. Weekly Response Papers & Translation Assignments
Each week, there will be short translation assignments on the week's readings. You will also be required to write a one-page response paper that reflects a thoughtful engagement with the assigned text, responding to particular passages through close analysis.

3. In-class Exams
There will be short in-class exams throughout the semester on the assigned texts. The exams will consist of vocabulary quizzes, reading comprehension in English, and translation from Japanese to English. Exams cannot be made up.

4. Final Translation Project or Research Paper
Your final project will be a translation of a Japanese text of your choice, chosen in consultation with the instructor. The translation must be accompanied by a critical introduction that situates and analyzes the text. You will be graded on the significance of the original work, quality of the translation, and quality of the introduction.
You may also choose to write a research paper that incorporates translation as a major part of the paper. The topic of the research paper must be chosen in consultation with the instructor. You will be expected to consult historical or critical references.

A one-paragraph proposal must be submitted by email to the instructor two weeks before the paper deadline so that the instructor can reply with comments and suggestions.

All written assignments must be typed, double-spaced using a 1" margin all around, a 12 point font letter size. Late papers will be downgraded at the discretion of the instructor.

PLAGIARIAM
Plagiarism is defined as "literally theft" and will NOT be tolerated. Plagiarism, in forms some students may not be aware of may include:

1. A written work that is ENTIRELY stolen from another source
2. Using quotations from source without proper citation
3. Paraphrasing from a source without proper citation

If you are found guilty you could receive a failing grade for the course which in some cases leads to dismissal from the course and in severe cases from the university.

COURSE GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1. Attendance & Class Participation (25%)
2. Weekly Response Papers & Translation Assignments (25%)
3. In-class Exams (15%)
4. Final Translation Project or Research Paper (35%)

GRADING SCALE

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Week 1**
1/12  Introduction  
Matsuo Bashô: Frog Haiku (Thirty-one Translations)  
Jay Rubin, "Translating Murakami" (audio).  
http://www.newyorker.com/online/2011/09/05/110905on_audio_murakami  
1/14  
Murakami Haruki, "Mashiro na uso" in *RRJE*, pp.10-17, notes pp.50-55.  
村上春樹「真っ白な嘘」  
Additional reading in English: "The Elephant Vanishes."

**Week 2**  
[1/19 Martin Luther King's Holiday]  
1/21  
Yoshimoto Banana, "Utsukushisa" in *RRJE*, pp.44-51, notes pp.70-73.  
よしもとばなな「美しさ」  
Additional reading in English: "Helix."

**Week 3**  
1/26  
川上弘美「神様」  
1/28  
Kawakami Hiromi, "Kamisama" – continued.  
Additional readings in English: "God Bless You, 2011" & "Afterword."

**Week 4**  
2/2  
乙一「むかし夕日の公園で」  
2/4  
Otsuichi, "Mukashi yûhi no kôen de" – continued.  
Additional readings in English: TBA.

**Week 5**  
2/9  
Ishii Shinji, "Nikuya oumu" in *RRJF*, pp.50-71, notes pp.69-77.  
いしいしんじ「肉屋おうむ」
2/11
Ishii Shinji, "Nikuya oumu" – continued.
  Additional readings in English: "Lulu."

**Week 6**
2/16
北村薰「百物語」

2/18
Kitamura Kaoru, "Hyaku monogatari" – continued.

**Week 7**
2/23
Machida Kô, "Dô kaitemo iya na yatsu wa iya na yatsu" in *RRJE*, pp.52-65, notes pp.74-79.
町田康「どう書いても嫌な奴は嫌な奴」

2/25
Machida Kô, "Dô kaitemo iya na yatsu wa iya na yatsu" – continued.
  Lyrics from the official site: http://www.machidakou.com/lyric/

**Week 8**
3/2  Translation Theory
Michael Emmerich, "Burning the Bridge" (2007).

3/4
多和田葉子「かける」
  Additional reading in English: "The Bath."

**Week 9  Spring Break**

**Week 10**
3/16
Hirano Keiichirô, "Mujô to iu koto" in *RRJE*, pp.94-107, notes pp.87-94.
平野啓一郎「無常ということ」

3/18
Hirano Keiichirô, "Mujô to iu koto" – continued.
**Week 11**
3/23
リービ秀雄「「文学者」の国に、ぼくがいる」

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnNkwnx082w

3/25
Levy Hideo, ""Bungakusha" no kuni ni, boku ga iru" – continued.

**Week 12**
3/30
Translation Workshop: Tawara Machi, "Sarada kinenbi"
俵万智「サラダ記念日」

4/1
Translation Workshop: Tawara Machi, "Sarada kinenbi"

**Week 13**
4/6
Translation Workshop: Kuroyanagi Tetsuko, "Madogiwa no Totto-chan"
黒柳徹子「窓ぎわのトットちゃん」

4/8
Translation Workshop: Kuroyanagi Tetsuko, "Madogiwa no Totto-chan"

**Week 14**
4/13
Translation Workshop: Michio Shûsuke, "Yuganda kodomo"
道尾秀介「ゆがんだ子供」

4/15
Translation Workshop: Michio Shûsuke, "Yuganda kodomo"

**Week 15**
4/20
Graduate Student Presentations on Final Projects.

4/22
Peer Review of Final Translation Assignments.

**Final Translation Assignment due Monday 4/27 by Noon**