Instructor: Dr. Hitomi Yoshio
Office: DM 498A
Email: hyoshio@fiu.edu
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11am-1pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers undergraduate 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.

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

OBJECTIVES

1) Reading for nuance and accuracy, and understanding grammatical structure.
2) Learning the fundamental techniques of literary translation.
3) Acquiring significant exposure to contemporary Japanese literature.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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 techniques for translating authentic material into English.
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 Assignment
For your final translation assignment, you will be given a choice among the source texts chosen by the instructor. Depending on your level of Japanese reading fluency, you may choose your own source text in consultation with the instructor. The acceptable length of the final translation will vary according to the text's intrinsic difficulty, and whether or not the text has been translated before.

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 (30%)
2. Weekly Response Papers & Translation Assignments (25%)
3. In-class Exams (20%)
4. Final Translation Assignment (25%)

**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, "Masshiro 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 yūhi no kōen 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」
Week 6
2/16
北村薫「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 **