



Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

JPNS 201-01
INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE POPULAR CULTURE

Tuesdays and Thursdays
Scheduled Time: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM MDT/MST
Hybrid Online Course

FALL 2021

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Dr. Ben Whaley

OFFICE HOURS: Online via Zoom or by email appointment

E-MAIL: ben.whaley@ucalgary.ca (I will respond to emails Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 5 PM)

PHONE NUMBER: Please use the email above as my office phone will not be checked frequently

TEACHING ASSISTANT: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

This course seeks to broadly introduce students to major forms of popular culture in Japan from the 20th and 21st centuries: namely, manga (print comics) and anime (animation), and their related subcultures, modern Japanese literature, works of Japanese cinema, and contemporary videogames. The goal of this course is to sufficiently acquaint students with these media and introduce basic methods for analysis so that they may later continue their studies and take standalone course offerings in each of these areas (e.g., JPNS 317.02, 323, 325, 327, 423). As this is a 200-level junior course, assignments will focus on developing core skills (close reading, essay writing, presenting research) needed for humanities study and success in one's university career, as well as one's personal and professional life, more broadly.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify and evaluate the thesis and main argument of an academic article through close reading
- Write their own original thesis statement and intro paragraph for an academic essay on a text
- Synthesize and present orally their own original research on an aspect of Japanese popular culture
- Apprehend the history and evolution of Japanese pop culture and possess the tools to analyze it

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

The following two books are recommended. Short excerpts will be made available on D2L with the full versions available for purchase from the U of C Bookstore or elsewhere online. All other required readings listed in the schedule below will be provided on D2L:

- Gengoroh **Tagame**. *My Brother's Husband*, Vols. 1 and 2. Translated by Anne Ishii. Pantheon, 2020.
- William M. **Tsutsui**. *Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization*. Association for Asian Studies, 2010.

REQUIRED EQUIPMENT

In order to take this class online, students need access to the following equipment:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates



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- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam/Camera (built-in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone
- Stable internet connection capable of streaming online video

WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE (SYNCHRONOUS MEETINGS LISTED)

All readings below will be posted to D2L with the exception of William M. Tsutsui's book and Gengoroh Tagame's manga.

SEPTEMBER 7 (Tue) – Course Introduction and Overview: “What is Popular Culture Anyway?” [NO Required Readings]

SEP 9 (Thu) – POP! Historical Roots and Modern Equivalents [READ W. Tsutsui, Ch. 1, pp. 5–22]

SEP 16 (Thu) – Prevalent Themes in Japanese Popular Culture [READ W. Tsutsui, Ch. 2, pp. 23–34]

SEP 23 (Thu) – The History, Development, and Evolution of Manga [NO Required Readings]

SEP 30 (Thu) – Let's Move! Animation History, Anime, and “Animetism” [READ Napier, pp. 3–34]

READING RESPONSE PAPER DUE by MIDNIGHT on OCT 1 (FRI) to the D2L DROPBOX

OCTOBER 7 (Thu) – Manga Discussion: Gengoroh Tagame's *My Brother's Husband* [READ at least Chs. 1–4, pp. 5–104]

OCT 14 (Thu) – Japanese Pop Culture Fandom from Inside and Outside Japan [NO Required Readings]

OCT 21 (Thu) – Modern Japanese Literature and Introduction to Literary Analysis [NO Required Readings]

VIDEO PRESENTATION DUE by MIDNIGHT on OCT 22 (FRI) to the D2L DROPBOX

OCT 28 (Thu) – Japanese Science Fiction (SF) as Social Commentary [READ Y. Tsutsui, “The Last Smoker,” pp. 155–67]

NOVEMBER 4 (Thu) – The Worlds of Murakami Haruki [READ Murakami, “Super-Frog Saves Tokyo,” pp. 111–40]

THESIS STATEMENT EXERCISE DUE by MIDNIGHT on NOV 5 (FRI) to the D2L DROPBOX

—READING WEEK—

NOV 18 (Thu) – Youth Culture, Technology, and Social Satire in Japanese Literature [READ Okuda, “Cell,” pp. 147–86]

NOV 25 (Thu) – Japanese Videogames and Gaming Culture [Read McLuhan, pp. 22–32]

DECEMBER 2 (Thu) – Last Class Wrap-Up and Final Discussion [NO Required Readings]

FINAL ESSAY PLAN DUE by MIDNIGHT on DEC 7 (TUE) to the D2L DROPBOX



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ASSESSMENTS

All assignments are required work in order to pass the class.

Reading Response Paper	20% (500–700-word close reading response to a required academic reading. Submitted to the D2L Dropbox and graded via rubric)
Thesis Statement Exercise	20% (500–700-word original thesis statement plus textual evidence based on one of the assigned short stories. Submitted to the D2L Dropbox and graded via rubric)
Video Presentation	30% (3 to 5-minute video presentation on a Japanese pop culture text of the student’s choosing. Filmed and uploaded to the D2L Dropbox and graded via rubric)
Final Essay Plan	30% (A <i>plan</i> for a final term paper on a topic of the student’s choosing that includes 1.) thesis statement, 2.) three pieces of evidence (quotes) to support your thesis, 3.) Your introductory paragraph)

GRADING SCALE

A+ 90–100	A 85–89	A– 80–84
B+ 76–79	B 72–75	B– 68–71
C+ 64–67	C 60–63	C– 55–59
D 50–54	Fail ≤49	

COURSE NOTES

- This class will be a hybrid online offering and have no in-person meetings on campus. All work will be submitted online via **D2L**. Course evaluations will also be conducted online.
- **Tuesdays will be asynchronous for the entire term (9/14 – 12/7)**, where students will watch pre-recorded lectures and complete the associated readings on their own time. The first class meeting on Tue 9/7, however, will be synchronous for the full period to introduce the course structure and various assignments.
- **Thursdays will be synchronous for the entire term (9/9 – 12/2)**, where students will engage in group discussion with the instructor about the lecture and reading content from that week over Zoom. Class time on Thursdays will remain as scheduled (11am – 12:15pm) in its entirety. Students should plan to watch the lectures and complete the reading assignments prior to that week’s Zoom session.
- All class meetings and assignment due dates will follow **Calgary Mountain Time**.



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- When possible, students should **enable video** or, at the very least, **microphone audio** over Zoom during class meetings.
- Students are expected to check the **course website (D2L)** regularly. Please make sure the email address registered with U of C is one you check frequently, or you may miss out on announcements!
- As a general rule, **late or make-up work** will not be offered. Students requesting make-up work or other concessions should discuss their individual circumstances with the instructor directly.
- **No prior knowledge of Japanese language or culture is necessary** to take this class. All readings, discussions, and lectures will take place in English.
- There will be no formal attendance policy for this class and no registrar scheduled final examination.

WARNING(!)

Some of our course texts and lecture topics may contain potentially disturbing content such as adult themes, violence, or nudity. **If you will be too uncomfortable to view these materials or take part in these academic discussions, you should not take this course** (if you are under 18, please tell me after the first class). Should any issues or concerns arise during the course, please contact the instructor directly.

INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).

Academic misconduct

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff



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requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.