



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

JPNS 317.02-01

**CRITICAL APPROACHES TO MANGA AND ANIME**

Tuesdays & Thursdays  
2:00 – 3:15 PM  
Science Theatres (ST) #143

Winter 2018

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Ben Whaley (SLLLC, Japanese)

**OFFICE LOCATION:** Craigie Hall D #425

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13:00–14:00, or by appointment

**TELEPHONE NUMBER:** (403) 220–3482

**E-MAIL:** benjamin.whaley@ucalgary.ca

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Mary Arnatt (office hours by appointment; mrarnatt@ucalgary.ca)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

In this course we look at a wide range of manga (print comics), anime (animation), and videogames from Japan. We critically analyze these “texts” and question the extent to which these various media, genres and narratives are representative of “Japanese culture,” and the influence they have had on it. Manga, anime, and games have related but distinct histories. Thus, a central focus of this course will be on examining the similarities and differences between these forms at the level of “media.” We will consider what makes each of these forms unique and how stories can be adapted and told differently utilizing each platform. Drawing on assigned readings, we use a number of analytical perspectives in the course, including, but not limited to, literary studies, media studies, and history.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of the course students will have:

- Gained knowledge of important events, issues, and themes in the cultural history of modern Japan
- Understood the development histories and construction of three forms of Japanese visual culture
- Read about and critically evaluated the aesthetics, narratives, and unique media characteristics of a wide variety of manga, anime, and videogames
- Gained experience in both the creative processes involved in making these media and the analytical thinking needed for writing about these works within an academic context



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**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Creative Assignment	15% (two-part assignment)
Media Analysis	25%
3 Unit Quizzes	30% (3 @ 10% each)
Final Paper	30%

**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	

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

All required readings (and *most* recommended ones) will be provided on D2L. There is no need to buy anything at the bookstore.

**COURSE NOTES**

- Regular attendance and in-class participation is expected of all students in this course.
- Students are naturally expected to come to each class having already read all the **required readings** and prepared to discuss them.
- Readings, lecture notes, the syllabus, and course announcements will be posted on **D2L**. You are expected to check the course website regularly. Please make sure the email address registered with U of C is one you check frequently or you may miss out on class announcements!
- As a rule, makeup creative assignments and unit quizzes will not be offered. Written assignments (media analysis and final paper) will be penalized -10% per day late. Doctors notes or concession notes from an academic advisor are required for all makeup work claimed.
- For **Winter 2018 only** our course shares the same code as JPNS 317.02 (Japanese Cinema – Block Week F18). If you are interested in *taking both courses* for credit it will be necessary to take manga & anime in a future academic year when the course codes no longer conflict.

**WARNING(!)**

One salient aspect of many genres of manga and anime is open representation of violence, sex, and sexuality. Consequently, in some classes we will be discussing and looking at potentially disturbing materials in order to *understand their cultural significance*. **If you will be too uncomfortable to read/view materials or take part in these discussions, you should not take this course.** (If you are under 18, you must receive permission from the instructor to take this course)

**ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:
  - a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
  - b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
  - c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
  - d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.



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While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

#### **EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS**

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.
- 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 Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

#### **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 requiring to examine it.



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Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **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.

#### **SAFEWALK**

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

#### **STUDENT UNION INFORMATION**

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

#### **WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.