



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

JPNS 323-01  
**CRITICAL APPROACHES TO MANGA AND ANIME**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
8:00 AM – 11:45 AM  
Remote Learning

Spring 2020 (May 6 – 27)

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Ben Whaley

**OFFICE LOCATION:** (Remote Learning)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Online via Zoom or by email

**OFFICE TELEPHONE:** (Remote Learning)

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES**

In this course we look at a wide range of manga (print comics), anime (animation), and related subcultures 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 their fandoms 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 cultural studies, in order to apprehend the history, evolution, and development of these pop culture forms.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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 and anime texts
- 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

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

Creative Assignment	20% (Due: Wed 5/13)
Media Analysis Paper	20% (Due: Wed 5/20 at Midnight   D2L Dropbox Rubric Assignment)
Lecture Quizzes	60% (Due: Wed 5/27 at Midnight   12 @ 5% via D2L)



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**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 AND RECOMMENDED 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**

- Per University guidelines, this class will have no in-person meetings on campus and all work will be completed remotely online via **D2L**.
- Throughout this course, students will view **12 pre-recorded video lectures** and complete the associated **online quizzes** (via D2L) following each lecture on their own time.
- Class discussion sections will take place via **Zoom** on a weekly basis. These will not be formal lectures and are instead intended for clarifying and discussing key points. Students should therefore plan to watch the lectures prior to participating in the Zoom meetings.
- All course materials and assignments will be posted and completed via **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!
- Late or make-up work will not be accepted. Students will have until the final day of the course (Wed. 5/27 at Midnight) to view all the video lectures and complete the associated online quizzes.

**WARNING(!)**

One salient aspect of many genres of manga and anime is an open representation of graphic violence, sex, and sexuality. Consequently, in some classes we will be discussing and looking at potentially disturbing materials and images 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.

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



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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.

#### **COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

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 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://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

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](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).



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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](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).

**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**

A link to required 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>.