



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

JPNS 323-01
CRITICAL APPROACHES TO MANGA AND ANIME

Tuesdays & Thursdays
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM
Taylor Institute (TI) Forum

Winter 2020
COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Ben Whaley

OFFICE LOCATION: Craigie Hall D #425

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 13:30–14:30, or by email appointment

OFFICE TELEPHONE: (403) 220–3482

E-MAIL: benjamin.whaley@ucalgary.ca

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Neha Bhatia (office hours by email appointment; neha.bhatia@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% (two-part assignment)
2 Media Analyses	30% (2 @ 15% each)
2 Unit Quizzes	20% (2 @ 10% each)
Final Paper	30%



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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

- 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 general rule, make-up creative assignments and unit quizzes will not be offered. Written assignments (media analyses and final paper) will be penalized minus 10% per day late. Students requesting make-up work should provide documentation of their own choosing such as a statutory declaration.

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

Website: 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, 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

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>.