Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (ANS 361; #31120)
Fall 2009, MW 4 - 5:30 p.m. (JES A307A)
Instructor: Kirsten Cather, (WCH 5.104B), kcather@mail.utexas.edu
Office Hours: Mon. 11-12:30 p.m.; Wed. 3-4 p.m., or by appointment

Description:
This course examines literature written by Japanese authors in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. We will learn to read, think, discuss and write about Japanese literature critically and analytically with attention to a work’s content, style, and form, as well as the socio-historical context of its production and reception. Topics include the breakdown of tradition and the crisis of individualism; nostalgia and nationalism; war and cultural amnesia; “women’s literature”; sexuality, gender, and power; and the dynamics of cross-cultural influence.

Required Texts/Readings:
1) The following novels (* on schedule) are available for purchase at the Co-op. You are welcome to purchase them from used bookstores or on-line instead, but be sure to get the same version (cross-check the ISBN #) so that we can all refer to the same page numbers for class discussions and papers.

- Ooka, Shohei. Fires on the Plain. ISBN: 978-0804813792

2) Additional supplementary short stories and supplemental readings (marked with – below) will be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents. You should print these out so that you can read carefully, take thorough notes, and bring with you to class.

Grading:
Pop-quizzes (approx. 11, lowest grade dropped) = 15% TOTAL
These will be very short unannounced quizzes during class time to check if you’ve done the assigned readings. Absolutely no make-ups.

Short Writing assignments = 30% TOTAL
2 total (3 pages each) X 15% each

Analytical paper = 40% TOTAL (detailed instructions will be provided on handout)
1-2 paragraph abstract and 1st draft (4-5 pages) = 10%
Final expanded and revised version (7-8 pages) = 30%

Oral Presentation = 10% TOTAL
Each of you will sign up to lead 15 minutes of a class discussion on a text. Along with your oral presentation, you should email a list of provocative discussion questions to the class at least 24 hours before your presentation.

Attendance/Participation/Contribution = 5% TOTAL
For each unexcused absence beyond one, your participation grade will be docked 1% each time.
Grading Policy
Grades are assigned as follows: 97-100 = A+; 93-96 = A; 90-92 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 83-86 = B; 80-82 = B-; 77-79 = C+; 73-76 = C; 70-72 = C-; 67-69 = D+; 63-66 = D; 60-62 = D-; below 60 = F. As a rule, I do not grade on a curve or round up grades. If you receive an 89, you will receive a B+. One exception to this rule is that a grade that is very close to the next grade level, such as an 89.8 or 79.9, may be rounded up to the higher grade if the student has consistently attended class and participated fully in class discussions. There are no extra credit assignments for this class.

Standards and Expectations:
Careful and thorough reading of the assigned texts by the date indicated on the schedule. Reading requires your active engagement with the text. Merely highlighting or skimming these will not be sufficient for close analysis. Detailed note-taking is essential and you need to bring your copy with you to class.
Attendance at all classes. Considerate, attentive, and active listening and participation in class and small group discussions. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave. Common courtesy expected.
Timely completion of assignments. No late assignments will be accepted. Extensions will be granted in only very rare cases for legitimate reasons (i.e. religious holidays), but even in these cases, arrangements must be made with the instructor one week prior to the examination date. For requests Last-minute family or medical emergencies will be considered, but no guarantees and will require a note as well as e-mail or telephone notification prior to the class period. No exceptions.
Announcements of schedule changes and/or homework assignments may be made in the previous class. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what has been assigned. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail at kcather@mail.utexas.edu.

Official Policies
Academic integrity: You are expected to adhere to university requirements on academic honesty and integrity. Behaviors, such as plagiarism, copying of another student’s work, or cheating on an exam, are serious offenses that will result in the grade of an “F” for the course and will be reported to the office of Student Judicial Services, where further disciplinary action may be taken. Please refer to the following website for information on how to avoid plagiarism in your work and/or discuss this with the instructor:
http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php
University Electronic Notification Mail Policy: In this course, e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class announcements and assignments. As per the University Electronic Notification Policy (please see http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html), it is your responsibility to update your email address and to check your e-mail regularly.
Accommodations for Students with Documented Disabilities: Students who require special accommodations may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities (471-6529 voice or 471-4641 TTY). This letter should be presented to the instructor at the beginning of the
semester so that appropriate accommodations can be made at that time. For more information, please see: http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/.

Use of Blackboard in Class: Some of our readings are available on blackboard. You should print these out and bring with you to class. Please allow yourself enough time before an assignment is due. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Blackboard is available at http://courses.utexas.edu. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 during business hours on weekdays.

Religious Holidays: If you will need to miss class, tests, or other assignments due to the observance of a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the work you have missed provided you notify me at least one week prior to the absence.
Updated 8/26/09

**Schedule (subject to change; updated version posted on blackboard):**
Readings are marked with a – and should be completed by the day listed on the schedule.
Note: All authors are listed with last name first following the Japanese practice.

**First Meetings (Aug. 26)**
Wed: *Introduction*

**Week One (Aug. 31 & Sept. 2)**
Mon: ---"Dancing Girl" ("Maihime," Mori Ōgai, 1890)
Wed: ---"Separate Ways" ("Wakare-Michī," Higuchi Ichiyō, 1896)
---*The Essence of the Novel* excerpts (Shōsetsu Shinzui, Tsubouchi Shōyō, 1885-86)

**Week Two (Mon. OFF, Sept. 9)**
Mon: OFF (Labor Day holiday)
Wed: *Kokoro* (Natsume Sōseki, 1914)

**Week Three (Sept. 14 & 16)**
Mon: Discuss *Kokoro*
---**Writing Assignment #1 due**
Wed: Continue discussion of *Kokoro*
---*Ten Nights of Dreams* (Yume jūya, Sōseki, 1908) excerpts

**Week Four (Sept. 21 & 23)**
Mon: *Workshop: Writing Assignment #1*
Wed.: ---"Hell Screen" ("Jigokuhen," Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, 1918)
---"A Note to an Old Friend" ("Aru kyūyō o okuru shuki," Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, 1927)

**Week Five (Sept. 28 & 30)**
Mon: *Naomi* (Chijin no ai, Tanizaki Jun'ichirō, 1924-25)
Wed: Continue *Naomi* discussion

**Week Six (Oct. 5 & 7)**
Mon: ---"A Strange Tale from East of the River" ("Bokutō kidan," Nagai Kafū, 1937)
---*The Decoration* ("Kunshō," Nagai Kafū, 1938)
Wed: ---"Merry Christmas" ("Merii Kurisumasu," Dazai Osamu, 1946)

**Week Seven (Oct. 12 & 14)**
Mon: *Confessions of a Mask* (Kamen no kokuhaku, Mishima Yukio, 1949)
---**Writing Assignment #2 due**
Wed: Continue discussion of *Confessions of a Mask*

**Week Eight (Oct. 19 & 21)**
Mon: *Fires on the Plains* (Nobi, Ooka Shōhei, 1956)
Wed: Continue *Fires* discussion
Week Nine (Oct. 26 & 28)
Mon:  --“Human Sheep” (“Ningen no hitsuji,” Ōe Kenzaburō, 1958)
      --“Amerikan Hijiki” (Nosaka Akiyuki, 1967)
Wed:  --“One Arm” (“Kataude,” Kawabata Yasunari, 1963)
      --*Palm-of-the-Hand Stories* selections (Kawabata Yasunari)

Week Ten (Nov. 2 & 4)
Mon:  --“Japan, the Beautiful and Myself” (Kawabata, 1968)
      --“Japan, the Ambiguous, and Myself” (Ōe, 1994)

Week Eleven (Nov. 9 & 11)
Mon:  --“Toddler-Hunting” (“Yojigari,” Kōno Taeko, 1961)
      --“The Origins of the Concept of ‘Women’s Literature’” (Joan Ericson, pp. 74-115)
      --“The Magic Chalk,” (“Mahō no chōku,” Abe Kōbō, 1950)

**Paper Abstract Due**

Week Twelve (Nov. 16 & 18)
Mon:  --“Dead Girl” (“Deddo gāru,” Natsuo Kirino, 200?)
Wed:   TBD

Week Thirteen (Nov. 23 & 25 – Thanksgiving Thursday)
Mon:   In-class screening of *Family Game* (dir. Morita Yoshimitsu, 1983)
Wed:   Finish screening of *Family Game*

**Paper Draft #1 due**

Week Fourteen (Nov. 30 & Dec. 2)
Mon:   TBD
Wed:   Wrap-up discussion

**Final paper due by final exam period, Friday December 11th, 7 p.m.**