Modern Japanese Literature in Translation (ANS 361; #30735)
Fall 2010, MW 3:30-5 p.m in JES A215A
Instructor: Kirsten Cather (Fischer), (WCH 5.104B), kcather@mail.utexas.edu
Cather Office Hours: Wed./Fri. 2-3:30 p.m. at WCH 5.104B

Description:
This course examines literature written by Japanese authors in the 20th and 21st 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 books (* 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.
2) Additional short stories and supplementary secondary 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.
3) A pack of 3"X5" index cards to be used for in-class pop quizzes and assignments. You must use a 3"x5" index card for these quizzes or they will not be graded.

Grading:
Participation/Contribution = 5% TOTAL
Note that this is based on both your participation (active engagement in all classes) and contribution (quality of your participation) rather than merely on attending classes, although one percentage point will be automatically deducted for each unexcused absence beyond one.
Pop-quizzes, homework, in-class individual and group assignments = 25% TOTAL (lowest one dropped)
   Pop Quizzes will be very short unannounced quizzes frequently given during class time to check if you’ve completed the assigned readings. We will also frequently do in-class individual and group work that will be collected at the end of class. Homework is due in class on the days listed on the schedule. Absolutely no make-ups or lates accepted.
*Analytical Paper (3 page maximum paper) = 15% TOTAL
   A short 3-page analytical response paper on a text of your choice. You can choose to write on any text that we read between Weeks 4-11 (Mon. 9/20 - Wed. 11/10), but your paper must be handed in at the beginning of the class in which we will first discuss that text or it will not be accepted.
*Final Paper and Rewrite = 45% TOTAL
   A formal analytical paper on two or more texts of your choice to be done in two stages: first a detailed outline and the first 2-3 pages of the essay (worth 15%) and then a significantly expanded and revised 5-6 page final polished essay (worth 30%).
Final Project = 10% TOTAL
   For this project, you will have the option either to do a creative project or to choose to read another work by an author we’ve read or from a particular period/year that you liked and to write-up a short 3-4 page essay comparing the two works (details to be announced).

*For detailed instructions on papers, see Guidelines for ANS 361 Papers handouts on Blackboard under Assignments)
Grading Policy
Grades will be assigned according to the UT +/- system as follows: 93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; 80-82.9 = B-; 77-79.9 = C+; 73-76.9 = C; 70-72.9 = C-; 67-69.9 = D+; 63-66.9 = D; 60-62.9 = 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 89.9 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.

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 and active and considerate participation in class and group discussions. Common courtesy is expected. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave. No one will be allowed to monopolize the class discussion or to shrink into the background.
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. Last-minute family or medical emergencies will be considered, but no guarantees and will require proof. No exceptions.
Announcements of add'tl readings, schedule changes, and/or homework assignments may be made in the previous class or by email and/or Blackboard announcement. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out what has been assigned. Please feel free to contact me 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. 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 for class announcements and assignments.

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.
Schedule (subject to change; updated version posted on blackboard):
All readings should be completed by the day listed on the schedule. Those marked with a – are available on Blackboard; those with a * are in the books available for purchase at the Co-Op.

Note: All authors are listed with last name first following the Japanese practice. When an author instead goes by a penname, that name has been bolded below.

First Meetings (Aug. 25)
Wed: Introductions

Week One (Aug. 30 & Sept. 1) – Modern Literature, Modern Romance, and the Nation
Mon: --"Dancing Girl" (“Maihime,” Mori Ōgai, 1890)
Wed: **“Separate Ways” (“Wakare-Michi,” Higuchi Ichiyō, 1896)

Week Two (Mon. OFF, Sept. 8 ) – Sōseki
Mon: OFF (Labor Day holiday)
Wed: *Kokoro (Natsume Sōseki, 1914)

Week Three (Sept. 13 & 15) – Sōseki continued
Mon: Continue discussion of *Kokoro
--"The Title" in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)
--"The Epistolary Novel" in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)
Homework Assignment #1: Titles & Kokoro (see Blackboard [BB] under Assignments)
Wed: --"Ten Nights of Dreams" excerpts (Sōseki, “Yume jūya,” 1908)
--"Surrealism" in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)

Week Four (Sept. 20 & 22) – Akutagawa
Mon: --"Hell Screen" (“Jigokuhen,” Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, 1918)
--"The Unreliable Narrator" in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)
Wed.: **"In a Grove," (“Yabu no naka,” Akutagawa, 1921)
--“Point of View” in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)
--"Introduction: Akutagawa Ryūnosuke: Downfall of the Chosen,” (Murakami Haruki), pp. xix-xxxvii

Week Five (Sept. 27 & 29) – Kawabata & Tanizaki
Mon: **"The Izu Dancer," (“Izu no odoriko,” Kawabata Yasunari, 1925)
--Palm-of-the-Hand Stories selections (Kawabata Yasunari)
Wed: --"The Tattooer (“Shisei,” Tanizaki Jun’ichirō 1910)
--"A Portrait of Shunkin" (Shunkin-shō, Tanizaki Jun’ichirō, 1933)

Week Six (Oct. 4 & 6) – War, Memory, and Nationalism
Mon: --"The Decoration" (“Kunshō,” Nagai Kafū, 1942)
Wed: **"Merry Christmas" (“Merii kurisumasu,” Dazai Osamu, 1946)
--"Irony," in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)

Week Seven (Oct. 11 & 13) - War, Memory, and Nationalism (ct’d)
Mon: In-class view The Emperor’s Naked Army Marches On (dir. Hara Kazuo, 1987, 122 min.; DVD 6094 at Fine Arts Library)
Wed: Finish viewing The Emperor’s and discuss
Week Eight (Oct. 18 & 20) – Ooka & WWII
Mon:  *Fires on the Plains* (Nobi, Ooka Shōhei, 1956)
    --“Chapters etc.” in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)
Wed:  Continue *Fires* discussion
    Homework Assignment #2: Memory, Writing, and Madness in *Fires on the Plains* (see BB)

Week Nine (Oct. 25 & 27) - Ōe Kenzaburō & the Occupation
Mon:  --“Sheep” (“Ningen no hitsuji,” Ōe Kenzaburō, 1958)
Wed:  **“Prize Stock” (“Shiiku,” Ōe, 1958)

Week Ten (Nov. 1 & 3) – Postwar Sexuality & Gender: Mishima
Mon:  Confessions of a Mask (Kamen no kohaku, Mishima Yukio, 1949)
Wed:  Continue discussion of *Confessions of a Mask*
    --“Ending” in The Art of Fiction (David Lodge, 1992)

Week Eleven (Nov. 8 & 10) – Postwar Sexuality & Gender ct’d: “Women’s” Literature?
Mon:  **“Toddler-Hunting” (“Yojigari,” Kōno Taeko, 1961)
    --“Rabbits” (“Usagi,” Kanai Mieko, 1976)

Week Twelve (Nov. 15 & 17) – Postmodern, Horror, and Girls’ Literature (shōjo bungaku)
Mon:  **“The Bet,” (“Kake,” Abe Kōbō, 1960)
    --Murakami Haruki, TBA
Wed:  **“Dead Girl” (“Deddo gāru,” Natsuo Kirino, 2001)
    **“Dreaming of Kimchee” (“Kimuchi no yume,” Yoshimoto Banana, 1992), excerpted from *Lizard*

Week Thirteen (Nov. 22 & 24 – Thanksgiving Thursday)
Mon:  **“Introduction” (Ted Goossen, 1997, pp. xi-xxxi)
    --“The Origins of the Concept of ‘Women’s Literature’” (Joan Ericson, pp. 74-115)
    --Other readings TBA
    Homework Assignment #3: Reflecting on Modern Japanese Literature (see BB)
Wed:  Final Paper first draft due

Week Fourteen (Nov. 29 & Dec. 1)
Mon:  Final presentations
Wed:  Final presentations and Wrap-up

FINAL PAPER REWRITE DUE on Wednesday, December 10th by 9 a.m.