Course Description:
In this class, we will read short stories in the original Japanese by representative 20th and 21st century authors. The focus of the course will be to improve literary reading skills, including overall comprehension and speed, as well as to develop the ability to do close readings of select passages. We will work on the art of translation and on analyzing the stories as literary works. Students will be expected both to gain competency at looking up words in the dictionary on their own and at working without dictionaries to achieve general comprehension.

Prerequisites: For JPN 330, JPN 320L or the equivalent with a grade of at least C. Graduate students require instructor’s permission to enroll in JPN 384.

Texts: (subject to change depending on student ability and interests)
All readings will be posted on Blackboard under Course Documents. Be sure to print out and bring with you to class regularly.

Short stories & Essays by Japanese Authors
“Oyasuteyama,” in *Nihon mukashi banashi* (5 pgs.+
Natsume Sōseki, “Dai-ichi yoru” (4 pgs.) in *Yume Jūya* (1908); passage from *Kokoro* (1914)
Shiga Naoya, “Kinosaki ni te” (8 pgs.) (1917)
Akutagawa Ryūnosuke, “Me ni miru yō na bunsho” (1 pg.) (1920’s)
Kawabata Yasunari, “Shinjū” (2 pgs.) (1926); opening paragraph of *Yukiguni* (1935-47)
Enchi Fumiko, “Kimono” (3 pgs.) (1954)
Kanai Mieko, “Kikan” (5 pgs.) (1970)
Yū Miri, “Namae” and “Kika shita kazoku” (1990s)

Essays and Secondary Readings on Translation
Edwin McClellan, “On Translating *Kokoro*”
Ivan Morris, “Notes on Literary Translation from Japanese into English” (1-3)
Donald Keene, “Problems of Translating Decorative Language” (especially p. 4-5)
Edwin McClellan, “Translation as Implicit Commentary” (18-20)
Edward Seidensticker, “The Reader, General and Otherwise” (21-27)
James Araki, “A Note on Literal Translation” (28-29)

Format of Classes:
The first 15 minutes or so of class will be spent discussing the work we read for that day in Japanese as a group. After that, we will identify difficult passages and work through them together and/or go through the work line-by-line with each of you offering the translations you have prepared in turn.

For the first few weeks, we’ll work as an entire class to become familiar with common issues involved with reading and translating Japanese literature. After that, I’ll split you into groups based on ability so that you can work at a productive and appropriate level.
Standards and Expectations:
Careful, thorough reading of the assigned texts. To be well prepared, for each text assigned, you should know the readings of all kanji and the meanings of words and grammatical phrases.

Detailed note-taking is essential and you should always bring the printed out text with all your markups and notes with you to each class. Bring also any useful dictionary tools that you use while reading/translating. You will need them frequently for group and class discussion/activities.

Attendance at all classes and considerate, attentive listening to lectures and discussions. Sleepers and disruptive students will be asked to leave.

Active and considerate participation in class and group discussions.

Timely completion of assignments and exams. No make-ups will be given and no late assignments 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. Last-minute family or medical emergencies will be considered, but are not guaranteed and documented proof of emergency is required. If you do not show, you will receive a “0” for the assignment or test.

Announcements of schedule changes and/or homework assignments may be made in the previous class or by email and/or Blackboard announcements. An updated schedule of readings & assignments will always be posted on Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check it regularly.

Powerpoints and other lecture notes will not be posted on blackboard. If you miss class, you should arrange to get notes from a classmate. If you have questions, attend TA or instructor office hours.

Grading:

Daily Class Preparation/Contribution (25%): On a regular basis I will assign you a grade for your class participation that day on a scale of 0-5 from poor to excellent. This will be based on how you perform on line-by-line translation exercises and homework, quizzes, and in-class group and individual exercises. Your two lowest grades will be dropped automatically.

Tests (approx. 5-7 total, 50%): We will have tests after finishing reading and discussing each story, or a cluster of stories when they are very short. These will test the development of your comprehension and translation skills.

Final translation project (25%): Each student’s final project must include a translation and some kind of commentary/analysis, but you have a great deal of freedom with these to tailor it to your own interests and abilities. All projects are subject to instructor’s prior approval. Due Monday, December 9th by midnight.

Grading will strongly take into account each student’s individual abilities and their progress and improvement over the course of the semester.

Grading Policy
Grades are assigned 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 89.7, 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 for this class.
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: Many 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.