

科目名：人文社会科学特別講義 I / 人文社会科学特別講義 I Humanities and Social Sciences I (Special lecture) / Humanities and Social Sciences I (Special lecture)

曜日・講時：前期集中

セメスター：

単位数：1

担当教員：Wei Ran (魏然)

講義コード：LB98856/LM98831

科目ナンバリング： 使用言語：英語

1. 授業題目：

Selected Topics in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature and Manga

2. Course Title (授業題目)：

Selected Topics in Modern and Contemporary Japanese Literature and Manga

3. 授業の目的と概要 (Course Objectives and Course Description)：

In this course, through our encounter with various literary texts and literary voices, we reflect on Japan's cultural, social, and political milieu from the 1960s to the present. In particular, we will reflect on issues including the evolving interaction between Japanese tradition and modernity; the interplay of individualism and the institutions of authority and control; and the intersection of "literary" and "popular" fiction; and the representations of gender and ethnicity. We will also explore different literary genres and study the key literary movements and their legacy. Lectures will provide historical and cultural background for the works under discussion, while sections will allow students to discuss the works in depth.

The topics that we will explore in class include technology and robots, *shōjō* (young girl) culture, urban margins, and the 3/11 nuclear disaster in Tōhōku region.

**\*Note\*: Before the first class on July 15 (Tuesday), students will have to read the manga excerpts of Tezuka Osamu's *Astro Boy* and excerpts of Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics* (1993).**

4. 学習の到達目標 (Learning Goals)：

In addition to regular attendance and participation in class discussions, students will demonstrate mastery of basic facts and concepts about modern and contemporary cultural history from the 1960s to the present. Students will also analyze selected literary texts in carefully-argued and clearly-written essays. \*Students are required to submit a 4-5 page long essay for the final projects\*.

5. 授業の内容・方法と進捗予定 (Course Content, Methods, and Course Schedule)：

There will be four sessions on **July 15 (Tue), 16 (Wed), 17 (Thur), and 18 (Fri), 2025**. Each session will be three hours long, from 13:00 to 16:10, with a short break in the middle.

**Tuesday 7/15 (technology and robots):**

Session 1, part 1: Course Introduction and Methodologies of Literary Analysis and Manga Analysis

Session 1, part 2: excerpts of *Astro Boy* (1952-1968) and excerpts of *Understanding Comics* (1993).

**Wednesday 7/16 (Minority Voices; urban Margins):**

Session 2, part 1: Medoruma Shun, *Droplets* (1997); Davinder Bhowmik, "Fractious Memories in Medoruma Shun's Tales of War."

Session 2, part 2: Arimura Sen, *Kamayan Slum District Comic Diary* (1980-), Book 3 selections

**Thursday 7/17 (Shōjō culture; memory and death):**

Session 3, part 1: Yoshimoto Banana, *Kitchen* (1988)

Session 3, part 2: Murakami Haruki, "Firefly" (1983)

**Friday 7/18 (Writing Tōhōku and the 3/11 nuclear meltdown):**

Session 4, part 1: Kawakami Hiromi, "God Bless You" (2011)

Session 4, part 2: excerpts of *Horses, Horses, In the Innocence of Light* (2018)

\*Discussions of final essays\*

**6. 成績評価方法 (Grading) :**

Full and active participation is required.

***Final course grades will be based on the following formula:***

- a) attendance: 15%
- b) participation and discussion: 40%
- c) final essays (4-5 pages long, double space): 45%

**7. 教科書および参考書 (Materials) :**

We will read all works in English translation; no formal background in Japanese studies or Japanese language is required or expected, although such background will likely prove helpful. There are no required texts to purchase, and all course materials will be provided by the instructor.

**8. 授業時間外学習 (Out-of-hours learning) :**

Students will have to read the manga excerpts of Tezuka Osamu's *Astro Boy* and excerpts of Scott McCloud's *Understanding Comics* (1993). Students are expected to spend 1 to 3 hours on the readings for each session.

**9. その他 (Others) :**

The class will be taught in English, and readings will be available in English as well. However, some readings might be provided in Japanese depending on the students' needs. Final Essays need to be written in English.