

Places and Spaces in Modern Japanese Literature and Film

Instructor: Mariko Takano

Class Meetings: W/Th. 1:00-2:30

Instructor: Mariko Takano

Office: 105

Office hour by appointment.

Course Description: This course will introduce you to senses of place and space in Modern Japanese literature and film. We will explore how places and spaces are inscribed in fictional narratives and how they become entangled with affective experiences of self, love, loss and alienation in relation to major historical events like the formation of the modern nation state, the development of new technology and media, and the experiences and consequences of involvement in the world wars.

Course Objectives:

- Students will read literary works and watch films with historical and cultural contexts that may not be familiar. Students will be encouraged to think about the familiar or unfamiliar affects in each work.
- Students will develop skills in close reading and in the analysis of literary and filmic texts.
- Students will gain insights into the historical contexts of Japan in the late 19th century to modern day.

Class Materials

- Reading materials will be provided on the class website.
- Films will be either provided on the class website or we will have screening hours.

Requirement

1.Attendance / Weekly Reading log	35%
2. Mid-term Exam	30%
3. Final Exam	35%

1.Attendance/Weekly Reading log: You are expected to post weekly reading log on the course website **at least 8 times**.

2. Midterm Exam

Midterm exam will be on Feb.22nd.

3. Final Exam

Date and format TBA

Accommodation for students with disabilities:

Any students requesting academic accommodations is requested to speak with me before the 2nd week of the semester.

Schedule (tentative, might change)

*Please read the assigned readings before coming to the classroom.

Week 1: Introduction- Studying abroad in the 1880s

Jan. 11th

Checking-in

Readings: Excerpts from Yi-Fu Tuan, *Space and Place*

Jan. 12th

Readings: Mori Ogai, "The Dancing Girl"

森鷗外「舞姫」

Week 2: Old Spaces in Modernizing World

Jan. 18th

Reading: "Berlin 1888:Mori Ogai's Dancing Girl" from Maeda Ai, *Text and the City*(1999)

前田愛「ベルリン—八八八年—都市小説としての『舞姫』」

Jan. 19th

Reading: Higuchi Ichiyo, Child's Play

樋口一葉「たけくらべ」

Week 3: Nature Landscapes

Jan. 25th

Reading: Kunikida Doppo, *Musashino*(1908)

国木田独歩「武蔵野」

Jan. 26th

Reading: T B A

Week 4: Countryside

Feb. 1st

Reading: Preface, Topical Index and try to read at least from page 11 to 29 from Yanagita Kunio, *The Legends of Tōno*
柳田国男『遠野物語』

Feb. 2nd

Reading: Marilyn Ivy, “Ghastly Insufficiencies: Tōno Monogatari and the Origins of Nativist Ethnology” from *Discourses of the Vanishing: Modernity, Phantasm, Japan* (1995)

Week 5: On Seeing and Space

Feb. 8th

Reading: Tanizaki Junichirō, “Secret” (1910)
谷崎潤一郎「秘密」

Feb. 9th

Reading: Excerpts from Miriam Hansen, *Babel & Babylon*

Week 6: Cinematic Spaces

Feb. 15th

Reading: Tanizaki Junichirō, “The Face” (1918)
谷崎潤一郎「人面疽」

Feb. 16th

Reading: Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” (1975)
bell hooks, “The Oppositional Gaze” (1992)

Week 7: Mid Term

Feb. 22nd

Feb. 23rd No Class

Week 8: Colonial Imagination

Mar.1st Tanizaki Junichirō, “The Story of Tomoda and Matsunaga” (1926)

谷崎潤一郎 「友田と松永の話」

Mar.2nd

Reading: “Repressing the Colonial Unconscious: Racialized Doppelgängers” from *Double Visions, Double Fictions: The Doppelgänger in Japanese Film and Literature* (2018)

Week 9: Postwar Ruins

Mar.8th

Film: Mizoguchi Kenji, *Women of the Night*

溝口健二 『夜の女たち』

Mar.9th

Reading: Excerpt from Hirano Kiyoko, *Mr. Smith Goes to Tokyo*

Week 10: Colonial Memory

Mar.15th

Reading: Abe Kōbō, “Record of Transformation” (1954)

安部公房 「変身の記録」

Mar. 16th

Reading: Lori Watt, “Imperial Remnants: The Repatriates in Postwar Japan” from *Settler Colonialism in the Twentieth Century Projects, Practices, Legacies* (2005)

Week 11: Places and Spaces in

Mar.22nd

Film: Kinoshita Keisuke, *Carmen Returns Home* (1951)

木下恵介 『カルメン故郷に帰る』

Mar.23rd

Readings: TBA

Week 12: Shinjuku 1960s

Mar.29th

Film: Matsumoto Toshio, *Funeral Parade of Roses* (1969)

松本俊夫 『薔薇の葬列』

Mar.30th

Readings: Taro Nettleton, “Funeral Parade of Roses and Diary of Shijuku Thief “

Week 13: Suburbs

Apr.5th

Reading: Conor Bateman, “The hills have ideologies: the fukeiron tradition in Japanese landscape cinema”

Apr. 6th

Film TBA

Reading: Furuhashi Yuriko, “Returning to actuality:fukeiron and the landscape film”

Week14: Suburbs

Apr.12th.

Film: Aoyama Shinji, *Eureka* (2001)

青山真治 『ユリイカ』

Apr. 13th

Film: *Eureka* (contd)

Week15

Apr.15th

Viewing: Kitajima Keizo, *Untitled Records* (2022)

Studying Tips:

- Read Closely / Pay attention to the details. I recommend going back to reading after the lecture too.
- Think Structurally

What is certain expression/paragraph/episode doing in the text as whole? What is role of each character?

- What to do with disturbing materials?

You might be bothered by objectifying and fetishizing of certain bodies. In those cases, I suggest utilizing the “problematic moments” for the structural analysis of the work. Do the problematic moments occur once? or repeatedly? How are those moments functioning in the work as whole?

- No point is boring point, it is okay to rumble.
- Please let me know if you have any concerns, need due date accommodations etc. If you are overwhelmed let me know.