



This is an abridged sample syllabus. Information is subject to change. Full syllabus will be distributed to registered students when term begins.

ASIA_V 212 - Writing About Japan

Haley Blum

This course explores Japanese writings in a variety of genres spanning from ancient Japan to the modern “Cool Japan” movement, including mythology, narrative, travel writing, poetry, and drama, to consider how writers from Japan, writers outside of Japan, and we as academics portray Japan in literary works and popular media. Through close reading of primary sources, we will analyze arguments, audience, and writing style, examining the social and political context of these works in order to better understand portrayals of Japan in literary history; at the same time, we will learn to interpret these writings from a variety of perspectives including genre theory, reception history, feminist theory, and religious theory. This is a reading- and writing-intensive course. All course materials are in English; knowledge of Japanese language is not required.

Mode of Delivery: Online

Sample Readings

O no Yasumaro. *The Kojiki: An Account of Ancient Matters*, trans. Gustav Heldt. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014.

Kim Sa-Ryang. "Into the Light," *Into the Light: An Anthology of Literature by Koreans in Japan*, edited by Melissa Wender. University of Hawai'i Press, 2011, pp. 13-38.

Murakami Haruki. "Super-Frog Saves Tokyo," *After the Quake: Stories*, trans. Jay Rubin. Alfred A. Knopf, 2002, pp. 111-140.

Assignments

Participation | 15%

Quizzes | 15%

Short Written Assignments | 20%

Test | 20%

Final Paper | 30%