ANT 232 - From Bombs to Buddhism: Fatalism, Technology, and Modern Japanese Culture
Winter 2012
LCC/WAC
(M-W-F 1:50-2:55 in TMC 224)

Professor Jennifer Milioto Matsue
Office Location: Taylor 208
Office Hours: Monday 3:30-5:00pm, Thursdays 4:30-6:00pm, and by appointment
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Course Overview:
An exploration of Japanese culture through critical reading of a variety of “texts” including classic literature, historical accounts, contemporary fiction, manga (Japanese comics), anime (Japanese animation), and film. Throughout the course students will question how religious beliefs, the natural environment, and historical events have shaped Japanese media, in turn deepening our understanding of contemporary Japanese society more broadly. Through analysis of such objects as the 1954 film Godzilla to the megamanga Akira, this class will explore the importance of such disparate phenomena as Buddhism to the dropping of the nuclear bomb in shaping Japanese identity.

Required Texts: (Available for purchase at the campus bookstore.)

Additional reading materials will be placed on Nexus or on reserve.

Evaluation:
Grading will be based on the following assignments -

One Quiz - 5pts
Four Position Papers (10pts each; @1000 words) - 40pts
Four Summaries of the Reading (2.5pts each; @250 words) - 10pts
(Appropriate Reading Marked with “**”)
Final Project - 30pts
Proposal (@250 words plus bibliography) 5pts
Paper (@2500-3000 words plus attachments) 25pts
Class Participation - 15pts
Total - 100pts

All assignments must be submitted by the dates and times as indicated. Any late work will be penalized with a full grade deduction per each day late. If there is any legitimate reason that you cannot take a quiz or turn in a paper on time, you must inform me in advance. All assignments must be completed to pass the course.

In-class expectations:
Students are expected to practice proper classroom etiquette. Students must also complete assignments as indicated in the schedule AND be prepared to discuss them in class. Indeed, lively discussion is absolutely essential in this course, therefore please take adequate notes on your reading and listening to allow you to contribute to the group. We may not discuss everything in the reading. Rather we will use class time to expand on the materials you cover on your own. If you have any questions or concerns about how to improve your discussion techniques, and in turn your class participation grade, please see me during the term. Please remember that your class participation grade is entirely separate from your grades on your written work. Regular attendance AND participation thus are both absolutely necessary to successfully complete this course. Greater than 6 absences (equivalent to two weeks of class or 20% of the term) will result in failure of the course.

Drafts and Revisions:
• If you have concerns about your writing, you are encouraged to submit drafts for suggestions ahead of assignment deadlines.
• You do have the option, however, to rewrite any of the summaries or position papers BUT NOT the quiz or the final paper.
• All rewrites must be turned in no later than one week after I have returned the original batch of graded assignments to the class. This means that if for some reason you have turned in the assignment late, the rewrite is still due when everyone else’s rewrite is due.
• Please send rewrites as an attachment to e-mail.
• The rewrite grade will be averaged with the original grade to determine the final grade for that assignment.
• Rewrites are NOT automatically graded higher than the original version.
• Rewrite means “to write again,” not just to correct a few grammatical errors that I have pointed out. It is an opportunity to rethink your work and to improve it, and the assignment should display that effort.

Honor Code:
Union College recognizes the need to create an environment of mutual trust as part of its educational mission. Responsible participation in an academic community requires respect for and acknowledgement of the thoughts and work of others, whether expressed in the present or in some distant time and place.

Matriculation at the College is taken to signify implicit agreement with the Academic
Honor Code, available at honorcode.union.edu <http://honorcode.union.edu/>. It is each student’s responsibility to ensure that submitted work is his or her own and does not involve any form of academic misconduct. Students are expected to ask their course instructors for clarification regarding, but not limited to, collaboration, citations, and plagiarism. Ignorance is not an excuse for breaching academic integrity.

Students are also required to sign a “Full Affirmation” of the Honor Code (distributed in class).

PLEASE DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO USE VIDEO AND/OR FILM REVIEWS AVAILABLE IN-PRINT OR ON-LINE WITHOUT PROPER CITATIONS!!!!

Students with Disabilities:
Please note that any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Dean of Students may be consulted to verify the documentation of the disability.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

The Making of Modern Japan
Week 1
1/5 Mon – Introduction to the Course
1/7 Wed – Contextualizing Japan
    Reading: Karan (2005) Japan in the 21st Century (1-26)
1/9 Fri – Contextualizing Japan Continued
    Reading: Karan (2005) Japan in the 21st Century (27-49)

Week 2
1/12 Mon – Cultural History of Japan
    Reading: Karan (2005) Japan in the 21st Century (50-76)
1/14 Wed – Japanese Religion
1/16 Fri – Quiz on Japan

Buddhism Through Historical Prose
Week 3
1/19 Mon – The Medievalists
1/21 Wed – Love Suicides
    **Reading: Keene (1961) Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu (1-38) and Chikamatsu Monzaemon’s “The Love Suicides at Sonezaki” from Keene (1961) Four Major Plays of Chikamatsu (39-56)
1/23 Fri – Discussion of Love Plays Continued

The War, the Bomb, and Occupation

Week 4
1/26 Mon – Position Paper #1 Due On Nexus
1/28 Wed – Hiroshima
  **Reading:  Ibuse (1969) Black Rain (5-100)
1/30 Fri – Hiroshima Continued
  **Reading:  Ibuse (1969) Black Rain (101-204)

Week 5
2/2 Mon – Hiroshima Continued
  **Reading:  Ibuse (1969) Black Rain (205-300)

<Film Viewing – Godzilla – Tuesday, 2/3, TMC 120, 7:00pm>
2/4 Wed – Godzilla Rises
  **Reading:  Tsutsui (2006) Introduction to In Godzilla’s Footsteps (1-8) and
              Igarashi (2000) Bodies of Memory (3-18 and 104-130)
2/6 Fri – Discussion of Godzilla Continued

Quaking and Shaking

Week 6
2/9 Mon – Position Paper #2 Due on Nexus
2/11 Wed – Sinking Japan
  **Reading:  Komatsu (1973) Japan Sinks (7-85)
2/13 Fri – Sinking Japan Continued
  **Reading:  Komatsu (1973) Japan Sinks (86-166)

Week 7
2/16 Mon – Sinking Japan Continued
  **Reading:  Komatsu (1973) Japan Sinks (166-238)
2/18 Wed – Discussion of Sinking Japan Continued
2/20 Fri – Final Project Proposal Due on Nexus

Technology

Week 8
2/23 Mon – Position Paper #3 Due on Nexus

  <Film Viewing – Akira – Tuesday, 2/24, TMC 120, 7:00pm>
2/25 Wed – Blowing Up Tokyo in Anime
2/27 Fri – 3/11
  **Reading:  Luke and Karashima, eds. (xiii-xxi; 3-70)
**Week 9**

3/2 Mon – 3/11 Continued
  **Reading:** Luke and Karashima, eds. (71-136)

3/4 Wed – 3/11 Continued
  **Reading:** Luke and Karashima, eds. (137-206)

3/6 Fri – Discussion of 3/11 Continued

**Week 10**

3/9 Mon – **Position Paper #4 Due on Nexus**

3/11 Wed – Selected Final Presentations and Discussants

3/13 Fri – Selected Final Presentations and Discussants

Optional Drafts due by Noon on Sunday, March 15, 2015 on Nexus

Final Paper due by 4pm on Friday, March 20, 2015 on Nexus