Miyazaki International College

Course Syllabus

(Fall Semester, 2021)

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| Course Title (Credits) | LL309 (ASE 381) COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (3 CREDITS) |
| Course Designation for TC | Teacher Certificate-related course, Discipline related course. Required by Article 66.6 |
| Content Teacher | |
| Instructor | Dr. Gregory J. Dunne |
| E-mail address | gdunne@sky.miyazaki-mic.ac.jp |
| Office/Ext | MIC  2-306  /  3785 |
| Office hours | Tuesday 4:15 to 5:15 / Wednesday 9:00 to 10:00/ and by appointment |
| Language Teacher | |
| Instructor |  |
| E-mail address |  |
| Office/Ext |  |
| Office hours |  |

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| Course Description: | | |
| This  course  introduces  the  methodologies  and  foundations  of  Comparative  Literature,  a  discipline  which  systematically  studies  literatures  from  different  nations,  languages  and/or  times.  The  course  aims  at  students  acquiring  the  means  and  tools  for  appreciating  textual  productions  from  varying  perspectives  through  a  comparative  study  of  texts  from  different  cultural  traditions  that  raise  questions  about  the  nature  and  function  of  storytelling  and  literary  expression.  Comparisons  may  be  thematic,  formal,  and/or  historical,  preferably  with  one  side  of  the  comparison  being  an  instance  of  Japanese  literature  in  translation.  This  class  will  explore  the  transpacific  poetics  involving  the  literatures  of  United  States,  Japan  and  Korea.  We  begin  with  an  exploration  of  Japanese  women’s  poetry,  both  modern  and  ancient,  in  English  translation.  We  examine  the  poetry  of  Yosano  Akiko,  Izumi  Shikibu,  and  Komachi  before  turning  our  attention  to  the  contemporary  American  poet  Jane  Hirshfield,  a  poet  who  has  translated  Japanese  poetry,  and  whose  own  work  is  influenced  by  Japanese  forms  and  her  Buddhist  practice.  The  class  proceeds  onward  to  examine  of  travel  writing  of  Matsuo  Basho  (in  translation),  exploring  his  Japanese  form  of*haibun*  (prose  mixed  with  poetry)  and  reading  it  against  the  contemporary  American  *haibun*,  chiefly  the  work  of  the  American  poet  Gary  Snyder.  Korean  literature  in  translation  will  also  be  explored,  as  we  examine  the  work  of  contemporary  Korean  women  poets  and  the  poetry  of  Ko  Un.  In  exploring  our  texts,  we  will  engage  at  a  significant  level  in  comparative  poetics  as  we  examine  these  texts  from  different  cultural  traditions  and  ask  questions  concerning  their  histories,  themes,  forms,  and  use  of  language.  Japanese  and  Korean  students  in  our  class  will  also  have  an  opportunity  to  translate  contemporary  poetry  from  their  home  countries  into  English.  Translation  theory  will  comprise  a  significant  feature  of  the  class. | | |
| Course Objectives: | | |
| * Introduce  the  different  kinds  of  questions  that  arise  when  comparing  and  analyzing    Specific literary  texts  from  different  cultural  contexts.   * Demonstrate  the  interconnections  and  relatedness  of  literature  to  issues  of  language,  culture identity,  gender,  nationality,  interpretation,  writing  and  authority. * Develop  and  refine  students’  proficiency  in  English:  reading  skills,  writing  skills,  listening   skills,  critical  thinking  (analytic)  skills,  and  speaking  skills,  especially  in  relation  to     discussion.   * Further  develop  the  students  knowledge  of  the  elements  of  literature  and  to  teach  them     how they  can  analyze  texts  (prose  and  poetry)  and  interpret  meaning  from  them.   * Help  students  to  enjoy  the  reading  of  literature  in  English  and  understand  literature’s   relevance  in  their  lives. | | |
| Course Schedule: | | |
| Day | Topic | Content/Activities |
| 1 | Introduction  What is Comparative Literature?  Modern Japanese Literature | Yosano  Akiko |
| 2 | Biography  and  influence | Yosano  Akiko |
| 3 | Politics, Gender, & Reception | Yosano  Akiko |
| 4 | Comparative Poetics | Essay, Earl Miner |
| 5 | Definitions  and  Characteristics  of  Comparative  Poetics | Essay  Earl  Miner |
| 6 | Analysis  and  Interpretation  Across  Cultures | Essay  Earl  Miner |
| 7 | Classical  Japanese  Women’s  Poetry | Ono  no  Komachi |
| 8 | Historical  Background  and  Context | Ono  no  Komachi |
| 9 | Form  and  Aesthetics | Ono  no  Komachi |
| 10 | Court  Poetry  Expectations  and  Complications | Izumi  Shikbu |
| 11 | Figurative  Language:  Analysis  and  interpretation | Izumi  Shikibu |
| 12 | Contemporary  American  Poetry | Jane  Hirshfield |
| 13 | Comparative  Analysis | Jane  Hirschfield |
| 14 | Comparative  Analysis | Jane  Hirschfield |
| 15 |  | Midterm  Test |
| 16 | Haibun  (Japanese) | Matuso  Basho  *Nozarashi  Kiko* |
| 17 | Reading  and  Interpreting | Matsuo  Basho  *Nozarashi  Kiko* |
| 18 | Reading  and  Interpreting | Matsuo  Basho  *Oku  No  Hosomichi* |
| 19 | Reading  and  Interpreting | Matsuo  Basho  *Oku  No  Hosomichi* |
| 20 | Haibun  (American) | Gary  Snyder  *Danger  on  Peaks* |
| 21 | Reading  and  Interpreting  Comparative  Analysis | Gary  Snyder  *Danger  on  Peaks* |
| 22 | Reading  and  Interpreting  Comparative  Analysis | Gary  Snyder  *Danger  on  Peaks* |
| 23 | Contemporary  Korean  Poetry | Contemporary  Women  Poets  of  Korea |
| 24 | Comparative  Analysis  Cultural,  Historical,  Religious,  Aesthetic | The  Poetry  of  Ko  Un  *This  Side  of  Time* |
| 25 | Comparative  Analysis  Cultural,  Historical,  Religious,  Aesthetic | The  Poetry  of  Ko  Un  *This  Side  of  Time* |
| 26 | Contemporary  Chinese  Poetry | Workers’  Poetry:  Poems  from*Iron  Moon*  (China) |
| 27 | Translation  Theory  &  Practice | Benjamin  “The  Task  of  the  Translator” |
| 28 | Contemporary  Japanese  and  Korean  poetry  Translation | Student  Translations |
| 29 | Contemporary  Japanese  and  Korean  poetry  Translation | Student  Translations |
| 30 |  | Student  Translations |
|  | Final Exam |  |
| Required Materials:  *Tangled  Hair:  Selected  Tanka  from  Midaregami*  (English/Japanese)  Bilingual  Edition.  Yosano,  Akiko.  Trans.  Goldstein  and  Shinoda.  Cheng  &  Tsui.  ISBN-10:  0887273734  *Backroads  to  Far  Towns:  Basho’s  Travel  Journal.*  Basho,  Matsuo.  Trans.  Cid  Corman.  White  Pine  Press.  2004.  ISBN-10:  189399631X  *The  Ink  Dark  Moon:  Love  Poems  by  Ono  no  Komachi  and  Izumi  Shikibu.*  Ono  no  Komachi  and  Izumi,  Shikibu.  Translated  by  Jane  Hirshfield  and  Mariko  Aratani.  Vintage.  2015.  *This  Side  of  Time:  Poems  by  Ko  Un*.  Ko  Un,  Translated  by  Claire  You     and     Richard  Silberg.  White  Pine  Press.  2012.  ISBN-10:  1935210327  *Danger  on  Peaks.*  Snyder,  Gary.  Counterpoint.  2004.  ISBN-10:  1593760418 | | |
| Course Policies (Attendance, etc.): | | |
| A**ttendance,  as  such,  is  not  part  of  the  final  grade  –  BUT  participation  is!**  Since  the  work  we  do  in  this  course  is  cumulative,  your  attendance  is  important.  Regular  class  attendance  is  required.  Students  with  more  than  5  unexcused  absences  will  be  asked  to  withdraw  from  the  class.  Excused  absences  are  those  that  are  defined  as  a  confining  illness,  death  in  the  family,  or  school-sanctioned  event.  For  an  absence  to  be  excused,  you  need  to  have  written  documentation  from  a  doctor  or  campus-organization  sponsor.  Please  come  to  class  on  time.  Repeated  lateness  will  be  considered  an  unexcused  absence  and  not  only  affect  participation  points  and  final  grade  but  also  your  status  in  the  class.  3  Times  late = 1  absence  >  30  minutes  late = 1  absence | | |
| Class Preparation and Review:  Students  are  expected  to  spend  at  least  one  hour  preparing  for  every  hour  of  lesson,  and  one  hour  reviewing  and  doing  Homework. | | |
| Grades and Grading Standards: | | |
| **Grades  will  be  determined  as  follows:**  Written  Assignments 20**%**  Homework 10**%**  Reader’s  Journal 15**%**  Participation 10**%**  Quizzes 15**%**  Presentations 10**%**  Exams  (Midterm  and  Final) 20**%**  Total 100  % | | |
| Methods of Feedback: | | |
| In principle, graded work will be returned within one week of submission with appropriate feedback, i.e., grade, comments, etc. Some written work will be graded and commented upon electronically. | | |
| Diploma Policy Objectives: | | |
| Work completed in this course helps students achieve the following Diploma Policy objective(s):  1. Advanced thinking skills (comparison, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation) based on critical thinking  (critical and analytic thought)  2. The ability to understand and accept different cultures developed through acquisition of a broad  knowledge and comparison of the cultures of Japan and other nations  3. The ability to identify and solve problems  4. Advanced communicative proficiency in both Japanese and English | | |
| Notes: | | |
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