

<p style="text-align: center;">AST/REL 308 <i>Religion in Japanese</i> <i>Literature & Film</i> Spring Term 2009 MW 10-11:30 a.m. Presser 213</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Dr. Jeffrey L. Richey Asian Studies/Religion Berea College x 3186 richeyj@berea.edu Draper 204-C</p>
--	---	--

COURSE DESCRIPTION

*I forgot all about my Tales and became much more conscientious. How could I have let all those years slip by, instead of practicing my devotions and going on pilgrimages?*¹

So wrote an unknown 11th-century Japanese woman who left behind the so-called *Sarashina nikki* (*Diary of Lady Sarashina*). From earliest times to the present, Japanese literature has recorded passions both sacred and secular, often expressing a sense of their entanglement and conflict with one another. Each time that it is offered, AST/REL 308 entails the close study of selected texts, practices, or experiences of one or more Asian religious traditions. This term's section is devoted to the exploration of three intertwined types of religious concern in Japanese literature and film: the human relationship with the natural world, the meaning and end of suffering, and the connections between sensuality and the sacred. Sources (in English translation) to be examined include dramas, novels, poetry, and prose narratives from the past thousand years, as well as several recent films.

Prerequisite: One AST course

Fulfills: Arts Perspective

COURSE MATERIALS

It is your responsibility to have copies of assigned materials with you in class.

1. Keene, Donald, ed. *Anthology of Japanese Literature: From the Earliest Era to the Mid-Nineteenth Century*. New York: Grove Press, 1955. (*AJL*)
2. Murakami, Haruki. *Kafka on the Shore*. Trans. Philip Gabriel. New York: Vintage Books, 2006.
3. Murasaki, Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Trans. Edward G. Seidensticker. New York: Vintage Classics, 1990.

¹ *As I Crossed a Bridge of Dreams: Recollections of a Woman in Eleventh-Century Japan*, trans. Ivan Morris (New York: Penguin Classics, 1975), 79.

4. Endō, Shūsaku. *The Samurai*. Trans. Van C. Gessel. New York: New Directions, 1997.
5. Various sources available online through Blackboard (<http://blackboard.berea.edu/>) [Bb]

Blackboard Access

1. To access Blackboard, go to <http://blackboard.berea.edu>.
2. Click the User Login button.

User Login

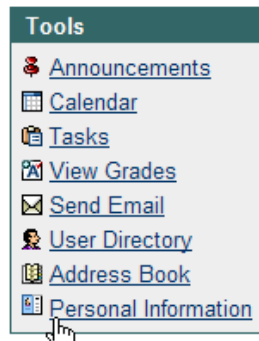
3. Please provide your username. Your Blackboard username is the same as your Windows/network username.
4. Your password is the same as your Blackboard username.
5. After you have completed the required fields, click the Login button. This will log you into Blackboard.



A screenshot of the Blackboard login interface. It features a 'Username:' label above a text input field containing 'doej'. Below it is a 'Password:' label above a password input field filled with black dots. To the left of the password field is a blue link that says 'Forgot password?'. To the right of the password field is a rounded 'Login' button.

Password Change

1. Once you have logged into Blackboard for the first time, you change your password.
2. To change your password, click the Personal Information link located under Tools on the My Berea College tab.

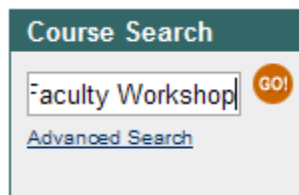


3. Click the Change Password link.
4. Provide a new password. You will also need to verify the password by typing it in the second time.
5. Once you have changed your password, click the Submit button. When prompted click OK twice to return to the My Berea College tab.

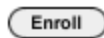
Submit

Blackboard Course Self Enroll

1. Click on the Courses Tab
2. Locate the Course Search field. In the field, perform a search using the course name that was provided by the instructor. To initiate the search, click GO!.



3. Once the course has been located, click the Enroll button.



4. Provide the access code given by your instructor. Click Submit to enroll into the course.
5. Click OK to access the course.
6. To access courses in the future, once you have logged in, click the Courses tab.

COURSE RESOURCES

(all available from Hutchins Library reserve)

Addiss, Stephen, *et al*, eds. *Traditional Japanese Arts and Culture: An Illustrated Sourcebook*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2006. [700.952 T763 2006]

de Bary, Wm. Theodore, *et al*, eds. *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Volume I: From Earliest Times to 1600*. 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 2001. [952 S724]

de Bary, Wm. Theodore, *et al*, eds. *Sources of Japanese Tradition, Volume II: 1600 to 2000*. 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 2005. [952 S724 2005]

Duus, Peter, ed. *The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. VI: The Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. [952 C178 v.6]

Hall, John Whitney, and James L. McLain, eds. *The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. IV: Early Modern Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991. [952 C178 v.4]

Jansen, Marius B., ed. *The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. V: The Nineteenth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. [952 C178 v.5]

Keene, Donald. *Japanese Literature: An Introduction for Western Readers*. New York: Grove Press, 1955. [895.6 K26j]

Kitagawa, Joseph M. *Religion in Japanese History*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1966. [291.095 K62r]

McDonald, Keiko L. *Reading a Japanese Film: Cinema in Context*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2006. [791.437 M478r 2006]

Miner, Earl, Hiroko Odagiri, and Robert Morrell. *The Princeton Companion to Classical Japanese Literature*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985. [895.609 M664p 1985]

Nolletti, Arthur, Jr., and David Desser, eds. *Reframing Japanese Cinema: Authorship, Genre, History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1992. [791.4309 R332]

Richie, Donald. *Japanese Cinema: An Introduction*. Hong Kong and New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. [791.4309 R531j]

Robertson, Jennifer, ed. *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005. [306.095 C737 2005]

Shirane, Haruo, ed. *Traditional Japanese Literature: An Anthology -Beginnings to 1600*. Trans. Sonja Amtzen, et al. New York: Columbia University press, 2007. [895.608 S558txa 2007]

Shively, Donald H. and William H. McCullough, eds. *The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. II: Heian Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. [952 C178 v.2]

Tanabe, George J., Jr., ed. *Religions of Japan in Practice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1999. [200.952 R382]

Tsutsui, William M., ed. *Companion to Japanese History*. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007. [952 C737 2007]

Varley, H. Paul. *Japanese Culture*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2000. [952 V315j 2000]

Yamamura, Kozo, ed. *The Cambridge History of Japan, Vol. III: Medieval Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990. [952 C178 v.3]

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Prepared participation in all class sessions.** The instructor reserves the right to reduce the final grade of any student who misses class. Excuses for absences should be sought in advance, but may not necessarily be granted.
2. **Submission of 12 reading responses** (= 1/3 of final grade). By 8 a.m. on each Wednesday indicated in the course calendar (pp. 5-8), email comments and questions (not summaries) related to that week's material to the instructor. Responses should consist of no fewer than 250 words of error-free English prose. Responses will be graded pass/fail and cannot be made up.
3. **Submission of 2 analytical essays** (each = 1/3 of final grade). By each of the deadlines prescribed in the course calendar below (pp. 5-8), you must submit a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 10-15 pages on a topic described in the course calendar at the appropriate date. Each should be submitted as an emailed, attached Microsoft Word document. Drafts are welcome up to 48 hours in advance of deadlines.

Any student who has a disability that may prevent him/her from fully demonstrating his/her abilities should contact Carol Barnett, PhD, LCSW, the Disability Services Coordinator at (859) 985-3212 to discuss accommodations necessary to ensure his/her full participation in this course.



COURSE CALENDAR

W 2/11

Read:

- Barnes, Julian. Excerpt from *Nothing To Be Frightened Of* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2008), 55-57. [Bb]
- Earhart, H. Byron. "Introduction" and "Persistent Themes in Japanese Religious History." In Earhart, *Japanese Religion: Unity and Diversity*, 3rd ed. (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 1982), 1-18. [Bb]
- Yusa, Michiko. "Timeline." In Yusa, *Japanese Religious Traditions* (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 2002), 9-11. [Bb]

Students who have not previously studied Japanese culture, history, or religions are encouraged to consult the external links entitled "Japanese Buddhism (video)" and "Understanding the Concept of Kami" available online through Blackboard.

M 2/16

Read:

- Murasaki, Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Trans. Edward G. Seidensticker. New York: Vintage Classics, 1990. [pp. 3-185]

W 2/18

READING RESPONSE #1 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- *The Tale of Genji* [pp. 186-360]

M 2/23

Read:

- "Three Poets at Minase [*Minase Sangin*]." Trans. Donald Keene. In *Anthology of Japanese Literature: From the Earliest era to the Mid-Nineteenth Century* [*AJL*], ed. Donald Keene (New York: Grove Press, 1955), 314-321.

W 2/25

READING RESPONSE #2 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Seami, Motokiyo. "Birds of Sorrow [*Utō*]." Trans. Meredith Weatherby and Bruce Rogers. In *AJL*, 271-285.
- "The Bird-Catcher in Hades [*Esashi Jūō*]." Trans. Shio Sakanishi. In *AJL*, 301-304.

M 3/2

Read:

- Matsuo, Bashō. "The Narrow Road of Oku [*Oku no Hosomichi*]." Trans. Donald Keene. In *AJL*, 363-373.

W 3/4

READING RESPONSE #3 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

View (in class):

- *Princess Mononoke (Mononoke Hime)*. DVD. Directed by Hayao Miyazaki. 1997; Burbank, CA: Miramax Home Entertainment, 2000. (part 1) [also available on reserve at Hutchins Library: DVD 791.433 P957 1997]

M 3/9

View (in class):

- *Princess Mononoke* (part 2)

W 3/11

READING RESPONSE #4 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Kamo no Chōmei. “An Account of My Hut [*Hōjōki*].” Trans. Donald Keene. In *AJL*, 197-212.

M 3/16

Read:

- “The Death of Atsumori.” Trans. A. L. Sadler. In *AJL*, 179-181.
- Seami, Motokiyo. “Atsumori.” Trans. Arthur Waley. In *AJL*, 286-293.

W 3/18

READING RESPONSE #5 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

View (in class):

- *Hoichi the Earless (Miminashi Hōichi)*. Excerpt from *Kwaidan (Kaidan)*. Directed by Kobayashi Masaki. 1964; USA: Criterion Collection, 2000. [also available on reserve at Hutchins Library: DVD 791.436 K981 2000]

M 3/23

Read:

- Endō, Shūsaku. *The Samurai*. Trans. Van C. Gessel. New York: New Directions, 1997. [pp. 9-137]

W 3/25

READING RESPONSE #6 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- *The Samurai* [pp. 138-267]

F 3/27

• **EMAIL ESSAY #1 TO INSTRUCTOR BY 8 A.M.!**

- In a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 10-15 pages, compare one work assigned thus far in the course to another, unassigned cinematic or literary work from any period of Japanese cultural history in order to identify and analyze religious themes common to both. *Cite all works quoted or paraphrased using a consistent documentation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) both in your essay text and in an accompanying bibliography. In addition to at least 1 work assigned in the course and 1 unassigned work, your sources must include at least 4 relevant print or electronic sources available through Hutchins Library. You are encouraged to make use of the items placed on reserve for the course (see pp. 3-4).*

3/28-4/5: SPRING VACATION – NO CLASS SESSIONS

M 4/6

Read:

- Kūkai, “Kūkai and His Master.” Trans. Donald Keene. In *AJL*, 63-66.
- Hakeda, Yoshito S. “Life of Kūkai.” In *Kūkai: Major Works*, ed. Yoshito S. Hakeda (New York: Columbia University Press, 1972), 13-60. [Bb]

View (in class):

- *Preaching from Pictures: A Japanese Mandala*. Directed by David W. Plath. Champaign, IL: Asian Educational Media Service, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2006. [also available on reserve at Hutchins Library: DVD 294.343 P922 2006]

W 4/8 GUEST: Dr. Mark MacWilliams (St. Lawrence University)

READING RESPONSE #7 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Ito, Kinko. “Manga in Japanese History.” In *Japanese Visual Culture: Explorations in the World of Manga and Anime*, ed. Mark W. MacWilliams (Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, 2008), 26-47. [Bb]

**“Imagining the Sacred in Popular Culture:
Japanese Comic Books and Religions”
Dr. Mark MacWilliams (St. Lawrence University)
Wednesday, April 8
5 p.m.
Room 103, Frost Building
Co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program
and the Department of Philosophy and Religion**

AST/REL 308 STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND!

M 4/13

View (in class):

- *The Harp of Burma (Biruma no tategoto)*. DVD. Directed by Kon Ichikawa. 1956; USA: Janis Films, 2007. (part 1) [also available on reserve at Hutchins Library: DVD 791.436 B962 2007]

W 4/15READING RESPONSE #8 DUE BY 8 A.M.!²

View (in class):

- *The Harp of Burma* (part 2)

M 4/20

Read:

- Chikamatsu, Monzaemon. *The Courier for Hell*. Trans. Donald Keene. In *Major Plays of Chikamatsu* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1961), 161-194. [Bb]

W 4/22

READING RESPONSE #9 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- Mishima, Yukio. “The Priest of Shiga Temple and His Love.” Trans. Ivan Morris. In Mishima, *Death in Midsummer and Other Stories* (New York: New Directions, 1966), 59-75. [Bb]

M 4/27

View (in class):

- *The Funeral (Ososhiki)*. Directed by Jūzō Itami. 1984; USA: New Yorker Films, 1987. (part 1) [also available on reserve at Hutchins Library: Video 791.43 F979]

W 4/29

READING RESPONSE #10 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

View (in class):

- *The Funeral* (part 2)

M 5/4 GUEST: Dr. Michael Rich (Georgetown College)

Read:

- Mori Ōgai. “Kompira.” Trans. James M. Vardman. *Youth and Other Stories*, ed. J. Thomas Rimer (Honolulu: University of Hawai’i Press, 1994), 102-135. [Bb]

² During weeks in which no texts are assigned, “reading” responses should engage films viewed in class.

W 5/6

READING RESPONSE #11 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- *Village of the Watermills*. Excerpt from *Dreams (Yume)*. Directed by Kurosawa Akira. 1990; USA: Warner Home Video, 2003. [also available on reserve at Hutchins Library: DVD 791.433 A3154 2003]

M 5/11

- Murakami, Haruki. *Kafka on the Shore*. Trans. Philip Gabriel. New York: Vintage Books, 2006. [pp. 3-230]

W 5/13

READING RESPONSE #12 DUE BY 8 A.M.!

Read:

- *Kafka on the Shore* [pp. 231-467]

M 5/18

• **EMAIL ESSAY #2 TO INSTRUCTOR BY 8 A.M.!**

- In a double-spaced, 12-point-font essay of 10-15 pages, compare one work assigned thus far in the course to another, unassigned cinematic or literary work from any period of Japanese cultural history in order to identify and analyze religious themes common to both. *Cite all works quoted or paraphrased using a consistent documentation style (e.g., APA, Chicago, MLA) both in your essay text and in an accompanying bibliography. In addition to at least 1 work assigned in the course and 1 unassigned work, your sources must include at least 4 relevant print or electronic sources available through Hutchins Library. You are encouraged to make use of the items placed on reserve for the course (see pp. 3-4).*

All students will be asked to complete Instructor Evaluation Questionnaires (IEQs) electronically at the end of the term. You are expected to participate in this process.

