

Japanimation and Manga

Schedule of Course Readings

* = Required Course Textbook
© = On e-reserve on the Classes V2 server

version 1.0

Note: This schedule is subject to change.
See classes V2 for amendments and revisions.

Instructor: Prof. Karen Nakamura, Yale University
Location: Waseda University, Bldg 22, 3rd Floor Multifunction Room
Time: MWF 1:00 – 3:15 pm

Course Description

Japanese animation (Japanimation or *anime*) and *manga* comic books are dynamic forms of popular and material culture in Japan. However, despite *anime* constantly outselling Japanese film at box offices and *manga* outselling Japanese novels, there has been little academic interest in this field until the past several years. This is rapidly changing as scholars become aware of the richness and diversity of these genres.

Offered in Tokyo over the summer, this course takes advantage of our location in the epicenter of manga and anime production. In order to understand manga and anime more fully, we will study the the cultural and historical background to the production and consumption of *manga* and *anime* and trace the one-hundred (and so) year history of Modern Japan, exploring the genealogies of these thematic elements. We will visit anime and manga production studios, museums dedicated to anime and manga, travel to Kyoto to talk with faculty at the only Department of Manga Studies in the world, and visit the sites referenced by numerous manga and anime.

Our readings draw from historical and cultural analyses of 20th century Japan designed to provide deeper understanding of the factors underlying the production and consumption of animation and manga. We will also be reading excerpts from several manga graphic novels.

No knowledge of the Japanese language is necessary.

Required Texts:

- * Gravett, Paul. (2004) *Manga: Sixty Years of Japanese Comics*. New York: Collins.
- * McCloud, Scott. (1994) *Understanding Comics*. New York: Harper Paperbacks.
- * Napier, Susan J. (2005) *Anime: from Akira to Howl's Moving Castle*. New York: Palgrave.
- * Schodt, Frederik L., and Osamu Tezuka (1986) *Manga! Manga!: the world of Japanese comics*. Tokyo: Kodansha International.

Expectations and Assignments:

Attendance at and preparation for each class is expected. You are expected to do all of the readings under the "Readings" heading as well as watch the In-Home Anime for each class day before that date. You may be tested by pop quizzes. If because of your home stay family rules you cannot watch the film at home, you can come to Waseda in the morning and watch the anime there.

Field Journal

You will be expected to keep a reflective field journal based on the readings, discussions, screenings, and field trips. These are usually due on Monday. Field journal assignments will be noted in the syllabus. The structure of the field journal assignments will be discussed in class.

Final Research Paper

Your final paper will be 10-12 pages long and based on any topic of interest (with instructor permission) related to the course.

Fieldtrips:

You are expected to arrive on time (aim for fifteen minutes before the scheduled time and then hit a local *konbini*) for all field trips. We'll leave at exactly the time specified, so if you get left behind, that is your problem and you'll be responsible for catching up to us. Chronic lateness is cause for failing you out of this class.

Evaluation:

Quizzes	20%
Field Notebook	50%
Final Paper	30%

Week 1: Sunday 2:00 pm
Onsite Orientation

Week 1: Monday

Topics: What is Manga?

Readings: What is manga and anime?
* Gravett *Introduction* (pp 8-9)
* Gravett *Chapter 1* (pp10-17)
* Gravett *Chapters 5-6* (pp52-95)
* McCloud pp 1-59

At-home manga: *Sazae-san* (1946)

At-home anime: Flip through channels at night. Ask each member of your host family what their favorite anime/manga (from childhood, if applicable) are.

In-class Anime: Medley of works

Discussion: What is manga and anime? What are the sub-genres of boys and girls?
Who reads manga and anime?

YSS Welcome Party at 6:00pm in the Uni-Café 125

Week 1: Wednesday

Topics: Understanding Youth Culture in Japan
Big robots!

Tensions and Futures

Readings: Napier, Susan - pp 3-62
© McGray, Douglas "Japan's Gross National Cool"
© Tobin, J (2002) Introduction to *Remade in Japan*
© Gill – "Transformational Magic"

At-home anime: *Gundam* (1979) -- watch with your homestay dad!
Akira (1988)

In-class anime: *Evangelion* (1995) (first episode)

Week 1: Friday

Class Trip Meet at Waseda classroom at 10:00 am (1hr lecture/discuss before setting out)
Orientation to Tokyo
Yoyogi Park
Akihabara

Readings: © Condry, Ian (2001) "Japanese Hip Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture"
© Gagne, Isaac – *Urban Princesses*
© Gagne, Isaac – Ethnographic Film – *Gothic Lolita Undressed*

At-home anime: *Samurai Champloo*

Field Assignment Talk to homestay family or people on the street about manga / anime
Explore images derived from manga / anime or globalization
Write/draw/sketch field journal report (3+ pages) about your findings
Due Monday in-class

Week 2: Monday

Topics: Precursors to Manga
Readings: * McCloud pp 60-137
* Schodt pp 1-67
* Gravett pp 18-23, 38-51
At-Home Anime: *Spirited Away* by Miyazaki Hayao (2001)
In-class Anime: Kamishibai

Week 2: Tuesday

Class Trip Meet at Takadano-baba station at 10:00 am
Edo Tokyo Historical Museum
Asakusa

Week 2: Wednesday

Topics: Manga and Anime Early 1900s
Readings: * Schodt 68-87
© Kinsella, S (2000) Ch. 3 Adult Manga and the Resurgence of Nationalism
* Napier *Anime* pp 161-174
* Schodt 238-255 ("Barefoot Gen")
Manga: * Schodt, pp 188-214 ("Ghost Warrior")
At Home Anime: *Grave of the Fireflies* (1988)
In-class Anime: *Early Showa Anime*

Week 2: Friday

Class Trip Meet at Waseda classroom at 10:00 am for 1 hour of discussion
Yasukuni Shrine
At-Home Anime: *Space Battleship Yamato* (1977)

Field Assignment We've covered three time periods in one week – the Tokugawa/Meiji boundary (1800s); the colonial period (1913-1945) and the post-War. Lots of stuff. As you explore Tokyo on foot or through manga/anime, how do you see the past being used in contemporary works?
Write/draw/sketch field journal report (3+ pages) about your findings
Due Monday in-class

Week 3

Topics: Tezuka Osamu and Miyazaki Hayao
Readings: * Schodt 106-119, 138-147
* Gravett Chapter 3, pp 24-37 ("Tezuka Osamu")
* Gravett 52-74 ("Boys Manga")
* McCloud pp 185-215 Color
© Kinsella: Chapter 2 "The Manga Production Cycle" (20pp)
Manga: Schodt 160-187 ("Phoenix")
At-home manga: *Black Jack* 1987)
At-home anime: *My Neighbor Totoro*
In-class *Astro Boy, Princess Knight*

Week 3: Wednesday

Field Trip Meeting location and time TBA
Mitaka Studio Ghibli
Reading: © McCarthy, Helen *Miyazaki Hayao: Master of Japanese Animation* Ch1.
At-home *Porco Rosso*

Week 3: Friday

Topics: Miyazaki Hayao
Readings: © McCarthy, Helen *Miyazaki Hayao* "Nausicaa"
© Miyazaki Hayao Interview
* Napier: Chap. 7 "The Enchantment of Estrangement" (121-138; 19 pp)
© Wright, L (2005) Miyazaki Hayao and Shinto
In-Class Minamata
At-Home *Nausicaa of the Valley of the Winds*
Manga: Nausicaa (the Manga)

Field Assignment We've covered the two most famous Japanese manga and anime artists this week. Your assignment is rather open, you can either write / draw about your impressions or you can do some investigative / exploratory work talking to people about Tezuka and Miyazaki (everyone has some thoughts on them). Write/draw/sketch field journal report (3+ pages) about your findings
Due Monday in-class

Week 4: Monday

Topic: *Shojo* Culture in Japan
Project: Final Proposals due
Reading Schodt pp 88-105 (Flowers and Dreams)
© Allison: Sailor Moon, pp 259-278 (20pp)
© Kinsella: Cuties in Japan, pp. 220-254 (35 pp)
* Napier: Chap. 10 “Princess Mononoke”
Manga: * *Rose of Versailles* in Schodt.
At-Home Anime: *Princess Mononoke* (1997)

Week 4: Wednesday

Topic: Women, Yaoi and Ladies Comics
* Gravett pp 74-95 (“Women’s Comics”)
© Jones, Bad Girls Like to Watch
© Thorn, Matt (2004) “Girls and Women Getting out of Hand”
© Shigematsu (1999) “Dimensions of Desire”
© McCarthy: Magical Girls Grow Up / Shonen Ai. pp 20-41 (22 pp)
At-home manga: *Love Song* (1997)
At Home Anime *Be Beautiful Trailers* (2006)

At Home Anime *Utena the Movie* (1997)

Thursday – Saturday

KYOTO TRIP

Field Assignment Open topic.
Write/draw/sketch field journal report (3+ pages of text).
Due Monday in-class

Week 5: Monday

Topic: Japan's Dissolution of Self
* Napier: Chap. 5, 6 *Ghost and machines* (85--120)
* Napier: Chap. 11 *Apocalypse*
© Standish: "Akira, Postmodernism and resistance"
© Sayle: Nerve Gas and the Four Noble Truths, *New Yorker* April 1, 1996; pp. 56-71 (14 pp)
© Iwao: "Aum Terror"
© Gardner, R "Aum Shinrikyo and a Panic about Manga"
At Home Anime: *Ghost in the Shell* (1995)
In Class Film: *A* (1998)
In Class Anime: *Evangelion* (1995)

Week 5: Wednesday

Topic: The Otaku / Hikikomori / Keitai Threat
Reading: © Smith, Colin (2005) "Freeters and the search for meaningful work in Post-Bubble Heisei Japan"
© Kinsella: Chapter 5 "The Movement Against Manga" (24 pp)
© Kinsella: 1998 "Otaku and Amateur Manga"
© Schodt: Regulation vs. Fantasy, pp 120-137 (18 pp)
© Matsuda, Misa. "Discourses of *Keitai* in Japan" pp 19-41
At home anime: *Voices of a Distant Star* (1998)
At home anime: *Perfect Blue* (2002)
Optional at home film: *Train Man Densha Otoko* (2005)
In class film: *Welcome to the NHK* (2006)

Week 5: Friday

Final Presentations

YSS Farewell Party at 6:30pm at Seihoku

END OF CLASS: ENJOY THE REST OF THE SUMMER!