Nina Cornyetz 1 Washington Place
Office Hours:
All by appointment
Tuesday, 4-6
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Syllabus Fall 2015
Passion and Poetics in Early Japan
IDSEM UG1351
Tues and Thurs 2:00-3:15

Course Description:

It can be argued that until the 1880s one thing was almost completely absent in Japanese literary and performing arts: the notion of an interiorized subject. In fact, the premodern Japanese arts are examples of extreme “exteriority,” that privilege form, word play and intertextuality and enfold the human being and human erotic passions within rituals for purity and harmony with a cosmology of the heavens. This course will explore ancient and premodern Japanese poetics and prose, performing and visual arts, from the very first writings through the nineteenth century, in relation to politics, gender, history and cosmology. Texts will include: Selections of poetry, emaki (picture scrolls), nō and puppet plays, selections from The Tale of Genji, The Pillow Book.

Course requirements:
Attendance and Participation 10% *
Midterm Paper 30%
Final Paper 40%
Presentation 10%
Additional writings/ Assignments 10%

- Participation is a vital part of this class, and therefore also your grade. If you have a very difficult time talking in class come to see me during office hours EARLY in the semester so we can talk about what we can do.
- No Laptops or other devices allowed in class.

Presentations: The final two days of classes will consist of student presentations in groups of three students (15 minutes per group, with a maximum of 5 minutes per student, followed by a short discussion by class). These presentations will be based on your final papers, and will require additional outside research and readings, integrated with our required ones. Presentation notes or copy read to be handed in after presentation.
Course Objectives: The course aims to familiarize students with the various arts of ancient and premodern Japan, from poetry to puppet theater to early progenitors of manga. The course also aims to teach students about the concept of art forms that privilege exteriority, or form and function, above interiority or expressions of individual “voices” and emotions.

Statement on Plagiarism
Plagiarism means: presenting as your own someone else’s words, ideas, opinions, and/or argument. You must be sure to cite your sources, include a bibliography, and use quotation marks when you incorporate another person's words or language verbatim. This includes buying a paper! Cases of suspected plagiarism will be referred to the Dean for disciplinary action(s).

**** On Japanese names: Japanese names are in the opposite order of American ones, so the FAMILY NAME (our last name) comes first, and the GIVEN NAME is second. (Like in a bibliographic list, but without a comma: i.e. Cornyetz Nina). Take the time to get this right. If in doubt, email me.

Students are required to bring a copy of the assigned readings to class.

Required Books:
Also on reserve at Bobst Library.


Additional Readings are available on NYU CLASSES. Below they are listed with full citation information in the order in which we will be reading them.


Schedule

**Part One – Antiquity/ Middle Ages**

September 3 Thursday: *Course Introduction*

September 8 Tuesday: *Communities of Antiquity*
Readings: Anderson, *Imagined Communities*, 1-46 (NYU CLASSES)

September 10 Thursday: *Communities of Antiquity 2 - Imagine there’s no Japan*
Assignment: Familiarize yourself with *The Princeton Companion*.

September 15 Tuesday: *Language Games* – handouts on the Japanese language
Readings: LaMarre, *Uncovering Heian Japan* 1-25.
(Remember to consult *The Princeton Companion to Classical Japanese Literature* for terms, famous names, etc. It will help make the reading more understandable.)

September 17 Thursday: *A World of Signs.*
Readings: Marra, “A Lesson to the Leaders: *Ise Monogatari* and the Code of *Miyabi*,” (NYU CLASSES)

September 22 Tuesday: *How to do Things with Words*
Readings: LaMarre, *Uncovering Heian Japan*, 41-74.

September 24 Thursday: *The Materiality of the Text*
Readings: LaMarre, *Uncovering Heian Japan*, 93-106; Raud, “The Lover’s Subject,” (NYU CLASSES)
Assignments: (1) Write two acrostic poems (4 or 5 lines long each). Be prepared to share these in class.

September 29 Tuesday: *Gendering Language*
Readings: LaMarre, *Uncovering Heian Japan*, 107-113; Cornyetz, excerpt from *Dangerous Women*, 78-81;

October 1 Thursday: *Sei Shonagon – proto-feminist?*
Student Presentation 1

October 6 Tuesday: *Zuihitsu 2*
Readings: Sei Shonagon, *Pillowbook*, 99-150; Fukumori, “Chinese Learning,” (NYU CLASSES); Kimura, “Meshûdo and the System of Sexuality,” (NYU CLASSES);
Assignment: (1) make your own list.
(2) Write a zuihitsu about 1 or 2 pages long.
(3) be ready to share these in class.

October 8 Thursday: Monogatari i View: The Illustrated handscroll tale of Genji

October 13 Tuesday: no classes.

October 15 Thursday: Women Possessed etc.

Paper One Due by email to NCornyetz@gmail.com Sunday, midnight, October 18.

October 20 Tuesday: The nô theater, time and space (in class video)
No new readings.

October 22 Thursday: Nô and Buddhism, performance and power – lecture on Marra, aesthetics of impurity

Part Two -- Early Modern Japan, Edo

October 27 Tuesday: Not About Representation; in class bunraku play
Readings: Keene, “Introduction,” (NYU CLASSES)

October 29 Thursday: Strategies of Narration 1
Readings: Sakai, “Supplement”; “The Love Suicides at Amijima” (NYU CLASSES)

November 3 Tuesday: Loving men

November 5 Thursday: Male-male Pleasures, Edo Style

November 10 Tuesday: 4 Genders?
November 12 Thursday: **Pornography and Advertising in Edo**  

November 17 Tuesday: **Humor and A Weave of Language**  
Readings: “Kibyoshi: Satiric and Didactic Picture Books” in Shirane, *Early Modern Japanese Literature*, 672-710; Young, “Making the Scene with Shikitei Sanba,” (all on NYU CLASSES)

November 19 Thursday: **Dangerous Women**  

**Students are REQUIRED to meet with me on an individual basis between November 24 and December 9 to discuss their papers and bibliographies. Abstract or Outline or short paper draft due the day before our meeting, by 12 noon.**

November 24 Tuesday: **Constructing or deconstructing “Japan” ?**  

No class November 26 Thursday – Thanksgiving Break

December 1 Tuesday: **Deconstructing “ri” (principle/law)**  
Readings: Karatani, “One Spirit, Two Nineteenth Centuries,” (NYU CLASSES)

December 3 Thursday: **Dangerous Women 2** -- in class film, “Ugetsu” part one  
No new readings.

December 8 Tuesday: **Dangerous Women 3** -- in class movie, “Ugetsu” part 2  
No new readings.

December 10 Thursday: Student Presentations 1

December 15 Tuesday: Student Presentations 2

**Final Paper Due by email to NCornyetz@gmail.com Thursday December 16 by midnight.**