Written in the eleventh century by a noble lady of the Japanese court, *The Tale of Genji* has been called the world’s first novel, and even the world’s first psychological novel. But can we really use the terms “novel” and “psychological” to describe the narrative? In this course we will supplement our reading of the primary text with selected secondary sources to focus our attention on such topics as: narration, visuality, sexual politics, relation to reality, poetics, and aesthetics in the text.

Course Requirements:
- Attendance and participation (including daily required participation) 20%
- Occasional Writing Assignments 10%
- 2 of 3 papers 8-10 pages each 70%
- Details in class.

This class meets only once a week. More than one unexcused absence WILL affect your grade.

There are no laptops or cellphones permitted in use during class. Exceptions will be announced.

Course Objectives: The course aims to familiarize students with the celebrated 10th Century Japanese work of fiction known as *The Tale of Genji*, and to introduce them to a wide variety of secondary sources exploring coterminus issues related to women’s voices, sexual politics, poetics and aesthetics, and more.

**** 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). If unsure ASK.

Students are required to bring a copy of the assigned readings to class.
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). Confirmation of plagiarism will mean a failure for the class.

Required Books:
For sale at NYU Bookstore
Also on reserve at Bobst Library.


Required Articles and Chapter on Blackboard:


There are Supplementary (not required) readings on Blackboard on sexual coercion, marriage and property, translation, and etc. Some of these may be helpful for the papers. Take a look.
Schedule

1. Sept. 2: Introduction

2. Sept. 9: Power and Sexual politics
   Readings: Genji Chapters 1-3 (NYU Classes); Bowring, Murasaki Shikibu, 1-21; Okada, *Figures of Resistance*, 157-213; Kimura, “Meshûdo and the System of Sexuality” (NYU Classes)

   Readings: Genji Chapters 4-8; Okada 250-286;

4. Sept. 23: Women’s voice and sexual politics
   Readings: Genji Chapters 9-11; Bowring, 22-28; Tyler, “Marriage, Rank and Rape” (NYU Classes); Sarra, “Staging” (NYU Classes)

5. Sept. 30: Fujitsubo, Rokujo, Akashi
   Readings: Genji Chapters 12-16; Bowring, Murasaki Shikibu, 28-34; Field, “Three Heroines” (NYU Classes)

   **Paper One due by email to NCornyetz@gmail.com by midnight Sunday, October 4.**

6. October 7: Aesthetics
   Readings: Genji Chapters 17-21 ; Okada, 232-249;

7. October 14: Tamakazura 1
   Readings: Genji Chapters 22-25; Bowring, Murasaki Shikibu, 34-41; Field, “A Minor Heroine” (NYU Classes);

8. October 21: Tamakazura 2
   Readings: Genji Chapters 26- 33; Okada, 214-231.

9. October 28: Darkening Fortunes
   Readings: Genji chapters 34-36; Bowring, Murasaki Shikibu, 41-47; Shirane, “Karmic Destiny” (NYU Classes)

10. November 4: Darker Fortunes
    Readings: Genji chapters 37-41; D’eteheverry, “The Woman’s Court” (NYU Classes)

   **Paper Two due by email to NCornyetz@gmail.com by midnight Sunday, November 15.**

11. November 11: Opening of the Uji Chapters
    Readings: Genji chapters 42-46; Bowring, Murasaki Shikibu, 47-52;
Rameriz-Christensen, “The Operation of the Lyrical Mode,” (NYU Classes)

12. November 18: Narration and Perspective
Readings: Genji chapters 47-49; Miner, “The Heroine,” (NYU Classes)
Stinchecum, “Who Tells the Tale?” (NYU Classes)

No Class November 25, Thanksgiving Break

13. December 2: What is an ending?
Readings: Genji chapters 50 –end; Okada 285-292;

14. December 9: Visualizing Genji
Readings: Meech-Pekarik, “The Artists View” (NYU Classes); Mostow, “’Picturing’ in the Tale of Genji,” (NYU Classes); Gatten, “Order of Chapters” (NYU Classes)

Paper Three due by email to NCornyetz@gmail.com by midnight Sunday, December 13.