Syllabus Spring 2014
Passion and Poetics in Early Japan
IDSEM-UG. 1351
Monday and Wednesday, 3:30-4:45
GCASL Room 379

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), なお and puppet plays, selections from The Tale of Genji, The Pillow Book.

Presentations: each student will present twice a semester, once during the first half, once during the second half. Students are to choose a particularly representative, interesting, difficult, or etc. passage from the assigned texts to read in class, and offer a 2-3 page intellectual and analytic reaction of their own as well. Why this choice? The presenting students must hand in their reaction papers for grading.

Course Requirements:
3 Papers, 5-7 pages each 60% (20% each)
Presentations 30% (15% each)
Attendance and Participation 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 in class. Exceptions will be announced.
**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).

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 7 Wednesday: Course Introduction – The Kojiki selections in class.

September 12 Monday: Communities of Antiquity
Readings: Anderson, Imagined Communities, 1-46 (NYU CLASSES)

September 14 Wednesday: Communities of Antiquity 2 - Imagine there’s no Japan ; – handouts on the Japanese language
Readings: Miner, Manyoshu, selections (NYU Classes). Overview of Princeton Companion
Assignment: Familiarize yourself with The Princeton Companion – bring text to class!

September 19 Monday: Language Games
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 21 Wednesday: Opening the canon
Readings: Ise Monogatari (book) 1-100.

September 26 Monday: A World of Signs.
Readings: Finish Ise Monogatari; Marra, “A Lesson to the Leaders: Ise Monogatari and the Code of Miyabi,” (NYU CLASSES)

September 28 Wednesday: How to do Things with Words
Readings: LaMarre, Uncovering Heian Japan, 41-74.

October 3 Monday: The Materiality of the Text
Readings: LaMarre, Uncovering Heian Japan, 93-106; Raud, “The Lover’s Subject,” (NYU CLASSES); Shirane, “Seasons,” (NYU CLASSES);
Assignments: (1) Write two acrostic poems (4 or 5 lines long each). Be prepared to share these in class.

October 5 Wednesday: Gendering Language
Readings: LaMarre, Uncovering Heian Japan, 107-113; Cornyetz, excerpt from Dangerous Women, 78-81; Mostow, “Painted Poems” (Meech-Pekarik in class copies)

October 10 Monday: no classes

October 12 Wednesday: Poetry written in Chinese
Readings: Kanshi (Dance of the Butterflies) (NYU Classes)
Paper One due midnight Friday, October 14, by email to n.cornyetz@gmail.com

October 17 Monday: Sei Shonagon – proto-feminist?

October 19 Wednesday: Zuihitsu 2
Readings: Sei Shonagon, Pillowbook, 99-150; Fukumori, “Chinese Learning,” (NYU CLASSES)
Assignment: (1) make your own list.
(2) Write a zuihitsu entry (less than 1 page long).
(3) be ready to share these in class.

October 24 Monday: Monogatari 1 View: The Illustrated handscroll tale of Genji (VCA 5274)
Readings: Murasaki Shikibu, The Tale of Genji, “Evening Faces,” and “Heartvine” (NYU CLASSES)

October 26 Wednesday: Women Possessed

October 31 Monday: On Heian Women’s Literature
Readings: Kimi and Yoda, “A Feminist Reinterpretation”; Bryant, “Forced Affection” (NYU Classes)

Part Two -- Early Modern Japan, Edo

November 2 Wednesday: The nô theater, time and space (in class video)
Terasaki, “Introduction.” (NYU classes)

Paper TWO due midnight on Friday, November 4, by email to n.cornyetz@gmail.com

November 7 Monday: Nô
Readings: Zeami(?), “The Shrine in the Fields,” (NYU CLASSES)
TERASAKI, “Epilogue” (NYU classes)

November 9 Wednesday: Not About Representation; in class bunraku play
Readings: “The Love Suicides at Amijima” (NYU CLASSES)

November 14 Monday Strategies of Narration 1
Readings: Sakai, “Supplement” (NYU Classes)
November 16 Wednesday: Pornography and Advertising in Edo

November 21 Monday: Loving men

No class November 23 Wednesday, Thanksgiving Break


November 30 Wednesday: Humor
Readings: Shirane, “Kibyoshi: Satiric and Didactic Picture Books” (NYU CLASSES)

December 5 Monday:
Young, “Making the Scene with Shikitei Sanba,” (NYU CLASSES)

December 7 Wednesday: Nativism and Overcoming “Ri”
Readings: Shirane, “Motoori Norinaga”; Sakai, “Preface” (NYU CLASSES)

December 12 Monday: Decentering the Subject
Readings: Karatani, “One Nineteenth Century” (NYU CLASSES)

December 13 TUESDAY: Video TBD.

December 14, Wednesday sushi party!

Paper Three due by midnight, Friday, December 15, by email to n.cornyetz@gmail.com