

ENG 209: World Literature - Asian (Japan)

Introduces a range of Japanese texts and films in order to explore the artistic, social, political, and historical characteristics of Japanese literature from the earliest poems to contemporary novels. Explores movements in literary and artistic traditions from multiple periods (e.g., Heian, Meiji) and analyzes how texts emphasize or resist the values of each historical moment. Considers issues of social class, religion, and aesthetics as they apply to creative works.

Instructors may choose an anthology, individual works, or a combination of both. The course will meet the requirements of a survey, emphasizing breadth over depth, as well as a mixture of classical and contemporary texts.

Course Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Read Japanese literature and discuss the aesthetics of its periods (e.g. Heian, Muromachi, Edo, etc).
- Speak to the limitations of translation into English, particularly the fundamental challenge of language embedded value systems.
- Read Japanese literature with a knowledge of important religious concepts and historical events (e.g.. Shintoism, Buddhism, the policy of isolationism, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, westernization, etc).
- Write literary analysis that demonstrates an awareness of the different style of thought available in the literature of Japan.
- Identify works of literature from classical Japanese writers and trace the continuation of their legacy in contemporary texts.

Credits: 4

Prerequisites: [WR 115](#) [RD 115](#) Equivalent placement test scores also accepted.

Program: [English](#)