Japanese 140A – The World of Early Modern Japanese Literature
Spring 2019 (Provisional Syllabus)

This class will survey some of the most celebrated works of literature from Japan’s early modern period (1600–1868). We will consider texts from a wide variety of genres, including fiction, travelogues, memoirs, and poetry, and we will also read and view dramatic forms such as the puppet theater and kabuki. All readings are available in English translation; Japanese knowledge is not required.

Our class meetings will typically begin with an introductory lecture that will help to put the literary works we read in their historical and cultural context. The focus of each class meeting, however, will be close reading and discussion of the texts. Students are therefore expected to read and reflect upon the assigned materials prior to class and to participate actively in discussion. Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

Students will also be asked to brief (about 200–250 well-chosen words) response essays to the weekly readings at least four times during the semester. These are to be posted to the online discussion forum (Latte) on the night before a class discussion. Short quizzes concerning the readings and lectures will be given periodically.

A short paper (5–7 pages in length) will be assigned halfway through the term that will ask students to make some comparison between two or more of the works we have read. Suggested topics will be provided but students are welcome to formulate their own questions in consultation with the instructor. As a final project, each student will also be required to submit a final paper (about 8–10 pages in length) that will provide a chance to explore a work of the student’s choice in greater analytical depth. Many of the texts we read as a class will be excerpts from longer works; for the final paper, the student is asked to choose one of the texts from which we have read an excerpt and read it in its entirety. Both writing assignments will be evaluated for their coherence, critical argumentation, persuasiveness, and thoroughness of engagement with the material.

Grades will be determined as follows:
- Attendance and class participation: 15%
- Quizzes and web posts: 20%
- Short paper: 25%
- Final paper: 40%

Instructor: Prof. Matthew Fraleigh
Mail: fraleigh@brandeis.edu
Phone: 6-3229

Class: M, W 2:00 PM–3:20 PM
Shiffman 217

Office: Mandel 115
Hours: M 10:00–12:00

Disabilities / Other Issues:
If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately. If there are other circumstances of which I should be aware, I hope that you will come talk to me early in the semester.

Extensions: Extensions are not granted except in cases of medical or family emergency.
Academic Integrity:
You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities (http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/srs/rr/) for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Library guides (http://guides.library.brandeis.edu/c.php?g=301723).

Texts available for purchase at the Brandeis campus bookstore; other readings are available online
  - Sumie Jones with Kenji Watanabe, eds. *An Edo Anthology: Literature From Japan's Mega-City 1750–1850*. U of Hawai'i P, 2013. (Note: this text is abbreviated AEA below)

Additional Resources: The following are useful resources on Japan’s pre-modern history and pre-modern literature. They are on reserve in Goldfarb Library.
- Shirane, Haruo, ed. *Early Modern Japanese Literature: an Anthology*. New York: Columbia UP, 2002. (Note: This is the unabridged edition of our main textbook; it is abbreviated EMJLFull below)

Required readings are marked ●; optional readings are marked ○.
Students who are interested in reading materials in Japanese (either selections from the primary readings or secondary scholarship) are encouraged to consult with the instructor.

Week 1 – Introduction / The Edo period in Japanese history and literature
Wednesday January 16: Overview of class aims and policies; introduction to “early modern Japanese literature”

Week 2 – The Edo period in Japanese history and literature
Monday January 21 (Martin Luther King Day – no class)
Tuesday January 22 (Brandeis Monday): Historical and cultural context
Wednesday January 23: *Kana-zōshi*

**Week 3 – “The Floating World” – Genroku Fiction and Ihara Saikaku (1642–1693)**

Monday January 28:
- Selections from Saikaku’s “Life of a Sensuous Man”: EMJL pp. 23–35.

Wednesday January 30:
- Selections from Saikaku’s “Japan’s Eternal Storehouse”: EMJL pp. 67–76.
- Selections from Saikaku’s “Worldly Mental Calculations”: EMJL pp. 76–84.

**Week 4 – Haikai and Haibun**

Monday February 4: The origins of *haikai* and the poetry of Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694)
- Bashō’s *hokku*: EMJL pp. 85–98.

Wednesday February 6: Bashō’s *haibun*
- Bashō’s “Narrow Road to the Deep North”: EMJL pp. 98–120.

**Week 5 – Chinese learning; Chinese poetry and prose**

Monday February 11: Confucianism

Wednesday February 13: Sinitic poetry (*Kanshi*)

Short papers due Friday February 17

Mid-Winter Break: February 18–22

Week 6 – Jōruri and Kabuki
Monday February 25: Chikamatsu Monzaemon (1653–1725) and the Puppet Theater
- Screening of Double Suicide (dir. Shinoda Masahiro, 1969). Time and place TBA.

Wednesday February 27:

Week 7 – The Golden Age of the Puppet Theater: the 47 Loyal Retainers
Monday March 4:

Wednesday March 6:

Week 8 – Mid-Edo poetry
Monday March 11: The hokku of Yosa Buson (1716–1783)
Wednesday March 13: Comic poetry

**Week 9 – Comic Books**

Monday March 18: *Kibyōshi* (comic books for adults)

Wednesday March 20:

**Week 10 – The Birth of Edo Popular Literature**

Monday March 25: *Dangibon* (satiric teachings)

Wednesday March 27: *Sharebon* (books of wit and fashion)

**Week 11 – Yomihon: History and the Supernatural**

Monday April 1:
- Selections from Ueda Akinari’s *Tales of Moonlight and Rain*: EMJL, 268–302.
  Film Screening: *Ugetsu* (1953), dir. Mizoguchi Kenji. Time TBA.

Wednesday April 3:
Week 12 – Nativism and Japanese Poetics
Monday April 8: Kamo no Mabuchi

Wednesday April 10: Motoori Norinaga

Week 13 – Later Sinitic and Japanese Poetry
Monday April 15: Kobayashi Issa (1763–1827)
- Issa’s “Journal of My Father’s Last Days” and selected hokku: EMJL 507–516.

Wednesday April 17: Ryōkan (1758–1831)

April 19–26: Passover and spring recess: No university exercises.

Week 14 – Comic Fiction / Satirical Chronicles
Monday April 29: Kokkeibon (comic fiction)
- Ryūtei Rijō Eight Footloose Fools: a Flower Almanac. AEA 282–301.

Wednesday May 1: Satirical Chronicles of Urban Life

Final Papers due: Monday May 6