Japanese 140A – The World of Early Modern Japanese Literature
Spring 2017 (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 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  
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Phone: 6-3229

Class: Tu, Th 6:30 PM–7:50 PM  
Olin-Sang 112

Office: Mandel 115  
Hours: Tu 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/srcs/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


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)
- 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)

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
Tuesday January 17: Overview of class aims and policies; introduction to “early modern Japanese literature”

Thursday January 19: Historical and cultural context; Kana-zōshi (Guest lecturer: Steve Hanna)

**Week 2 – “The Floating World” – Genroku Fiction and Ihara Saikaku (1642–1693)**

**Tuesday January 24:**
- Selections from Saikaku’s “Life of a Sensuous Man”: EMJL pp. 23–35.

**Thursday January 26:**
- Selections from Saikaku’s “Japan’s Eternal Storehouse”: EMJL pp. 67–76.
- Selections from Saikaku’s “Worldly Mental Calculations”: EMJL pp. 76–84.

**Week 3 – Haikai and Haibun**

**Tuesday January 31: The origins of haikai and the poetry of Matsuo Bashō (1644–1694)**
- Bashō’s *bokke*. EMJL pp. 85–98.

**Thursday February 2: Bashō’s haibun**
- Bashō’s “Narrow Road to the Deep North”: EMJL pp. 98–120.

**Week 4 – Chinese learning; Chinese poetry and prose**

**Tuesday February 7: Confucianism**
- “Confucian Studies and Literary Perspectives,” *EMJL Full* pp. 352–370.

**Thursday February 9: Sinitic poetry (Kanshi)**
**Week 5 – Jōruri and Kabuki**

Tuesday February 14: Chikamatsu Monzaemon (1653–1725) and the Puppet Theater
- Screening of *Double Suicide* (dir. Shinoda Masahiro, 1969). Time and place TBA.

Thursday February 16:

**Short papers due Friday February 17**

**Mid-Winter Break: February 20–24**

**Week 6 – The Golden Age of the Puppet Theater: the 47 Loyal Retainers**

Tuesday February 28:

Thursday March 2: MusicUnitesUS: Intercultural Residency Series: East Asian musicians PAN Project (class meets in Slosberg Recital Hall)

**Week 7 – Mid-Edo poetry**

Tuesday March 7: The *bokku* of Yosa Buson (1716–1783)

Thursday March 9: Comic poetry
- Comic and satiric poetry (*kyōka, senryū*): EMJL pp. 249–259.
Week 8 – Yomihon: History and the Supernatural

Tuesday March 14:
- Selections from Ueda Akinari’s *Tales of Moonlight and Rain*: EMJL, 268–302.

Thursday March 16:
- Note: class will not meet formally on this day, due to the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting. Instead, please watch *Ugetsu* (1953), a film directed by Mizoguchi Kenji based upon these stories.

Week 9 – The Birth of Edo Popular Literature

Tuesday March 21: *Dangibon* (satiric teachings)

Thursday March 23: *Sharebon* (books of wit and fashion)

Week 10 – Comic Books

Tuesday March 28: *Kibyōshi* (comic books for adults)

Thursday March 30 TBA

Week 11 – Nativism and Japanese Poetics

Tuesday April 4: Kamo no Mabuchi

Thursday April 6: Motoori Norinaga

Spring Break: April 10–18
Week 12 – Comic Fiction
Thursday April 20: Kokkeibon (comic fiction)

Week 13 – Later Sinitic and Japanese Poetry
Tuesday April 25: Kobayashi Issa (1763–1827)
  ● Issa’s “Journal of My Father’s Last Days” and selected bokku: EMJL 507–516.

Thursday April 27: Ryōkan (1758–1831)

Week 14 – Bakumatsu into Meiji
Tuesday May 2 – Satirical Chronicles of Urban Life

Final Papers due: Friday May 5