

EALL 372B – CRIME AND DETECTION IN MODERN JAPANESE FICTION (Spring 2017)
Moore 103, MWF 12:30 – 1:20pm

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Office Hours: by appt.

Course Description: This course will examine the origin, development, and influence of crime and detective fiction in modern Japan. After a look at possible traditional antecedents, we will begin in the Meiji Era, exploring the process by which a narrative structure ostensibly Western in origin was adapted to the literature then emerging. As we discuss the various social and cultural functions crime and detective fiction plays, as well as its oft-posit location on the boundary between “popular” and “literary,” we will try to make sense of its enduring appeal (e.g., why do people enjoy reading about crime and murder?) to the point of asking the question: can crime and detective fiction be taken seriously? Through close readings and discussion, we will look at its strained and ambiguous relationship with science, ethics, nationalism, modernity, class and gender, as well its projection of subject and authority, all of which serve to give the texts political significance. Our ultimate goal is an understanding of how crime and detective fiction provided (and continues to provide) Japanese authors with a framework through which to critique their society, as well as how the structural and conceptual similarities between crime and detective fiction and the novel has helped shape the development of modern Japanese literature.

The class sessions will consist of a combination of lectures, discussions, and student presentations. Students are expected to have read the assigned material by the scheduled dates, and to engage in the discussions actively. Class participation is important, and regular attendance is expected. Based on the health of class discussions (or lack of same), pop quizzes may be given to stimulate responsiveness.

Required Texts:

Abe Kōbō, *The Ruined Map*
Edogawa Rampo, *The Black Lizard and Beast in the Shadows*
Higashino Keigo, *Malice*
Kirino Natsuo, *Real World*
Miyabe Miyuki, *All She Was Worth*
Takagi Akimitsu, *The Tattoo Murder Case*
All other required readings will be on Laulima.

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and describe major authors, works, features, forms, and styles of crime and detective fiction in modern Japan
- Students will learn how sociological pressures, historical context and forensic and technological developments contributed to the popularity of certain types of detective fiction at certain times
- Students will learn to recognize and interpret how works of crime and detective fiction position themselves vis-à-vis prevalent legal and moral codes of society

Also, the following Institutional Learning Objectives (ILOs) apply, at least in part, to this course:

- ILO1 – Know – Breadth and depth of Knowledge, a] “General Education,” b] “Specialized Study in an Academic Field”

- ILO2 – Do – Intellectual and Practical Skills, a] “Think Critically and Creatively,” b] “Conduct Research,” c] “Communicate and Report”
-- ILO3 – Value – Personal and Social Responsibility, b] “Respect for People and Cultures”

(Refer: <http://www.uhm.hawaii.edu/ovcaa/policies/pdf/M5.321.pdf>)

Grading:

Class Attendance:	10%
Participation:	10%
Two Quizzes:	10%
Two Critique Papers (5-6pgs):	20%
Midterm Examination:	20%
Final Project:	10%
Final Examination:	20% (Monday 05/08 12:00 – 2:00p)

Grading = 100-90 = A 89-80 = B 79-70 = C 69-60 = D 59 & below = F

Please Note:

1. Cell phones and anything else that beeps (laptops, etc.) should be **muted** during class.
2. Please **do not eat** in class. Covered drinks (water, coffee, etc.) are fine.
3. Students with learning differences, disabilities or related access needs are encouraged to contact the KOKUA Program (956-7511 or <http://www.hawaii.edu/kokua/>) for information and services.
4. Students are expected to uphold the values of the university community as they are articulated in the UHM Student Conduct Code: <http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/>.